

THE WORLD'S NO.1 FOR TOY SOLDIERS & MODEL FIGURES

# TOY SOLDIER COLLECTOR

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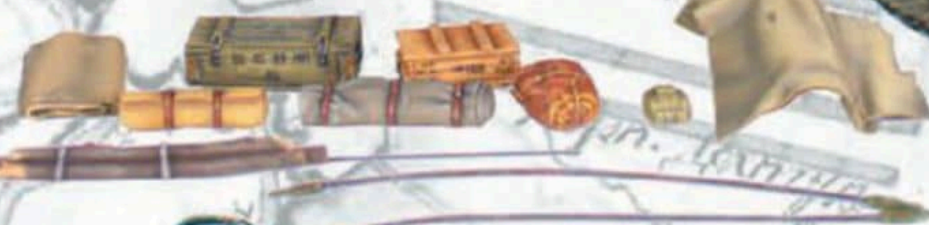
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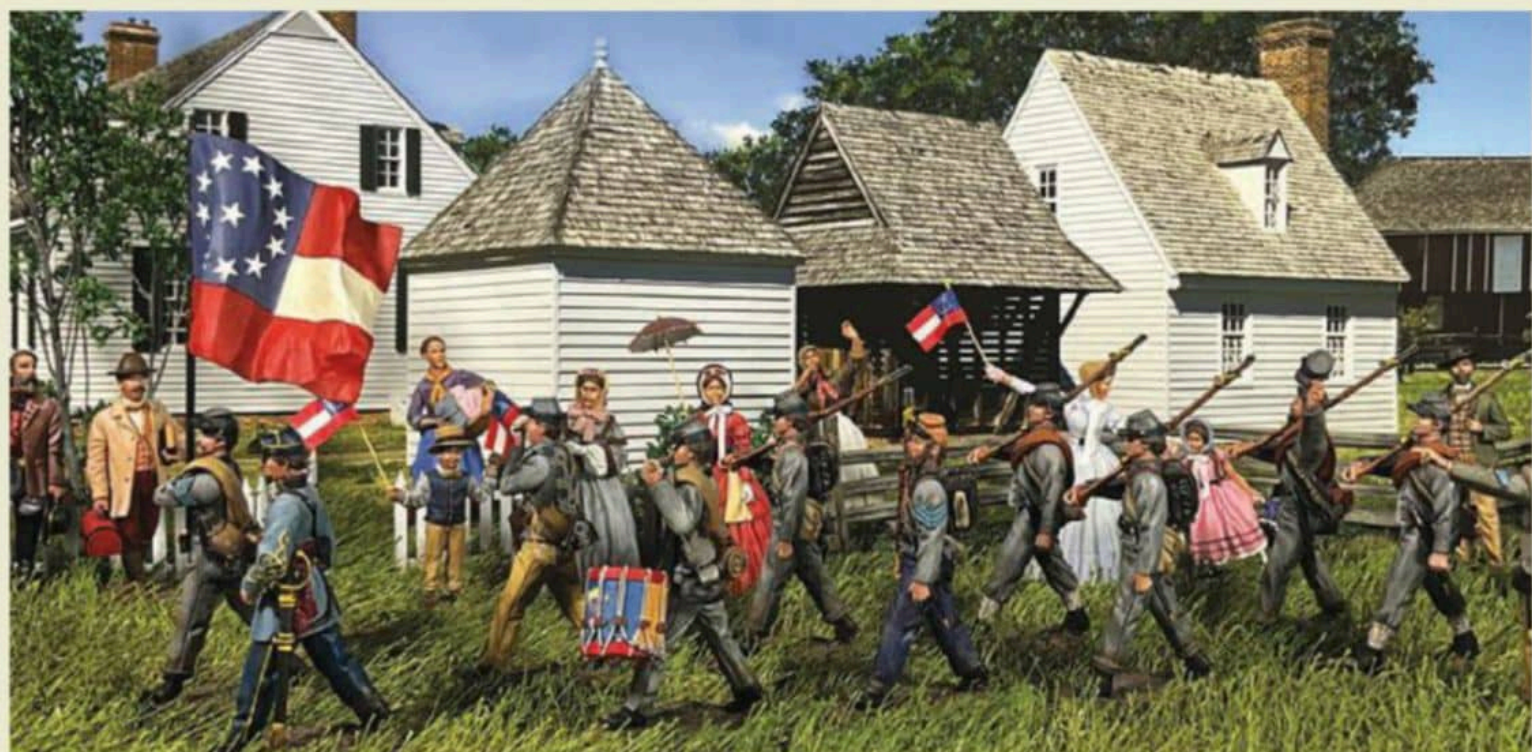
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# TOY SOLDIER COLLECTOR

& HISTORICAL FIGURES

We're as serious about collecting as you are

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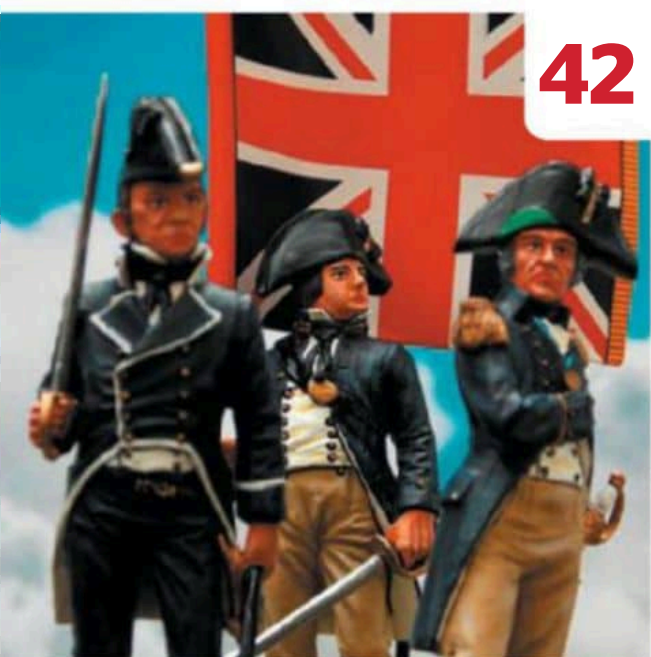
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# Welcome

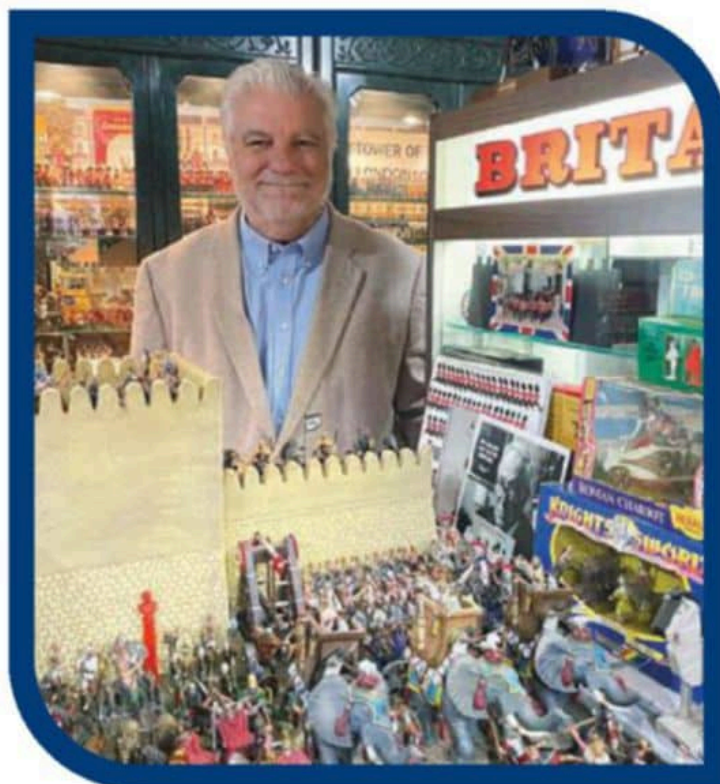
**Welcome to the latest issue of the world's No. 1 magazine for hobbyists who share a collective passion for all types of toy soldiers and historical figures.**

For starters, I'd like to extend a warm welcome aboard to this publication's new designer Jonathan Tabinor and bid a fond farewell to his predecessor Emma Wilson with my thanks for all her efforts.

This edition's wide-ranging topics include illuminating commemorations of two different milestones in British history. Contributing Editor George Phillips marks the 170th anniversary of the fateful Charge of the Light Brigade during the Crimean War's Battle of Balaclava on 25 October 1854. In addition, expert James Opie's latest instalment of 'Talking Toy Soldiers' delves into the topic 'Britain Goes to War' and observes the 110th anniversary of the beginning of World War I by marching out a miniature salute to British combatants in peak caps.

The Napoleonic Wars rank as one of the most popular topics among toy soldier and model figure enthusiasts. Rather than revisiting the battlefields of Europe, however, collector Gary Emery explores a different angle by mustering fascinating figures of 'Colonial Napoleonic' inspired by far-flung contemporaneous campaigns fought during the same era.

William Schneider's account of how he creates whimsical vignettes inspired by fairy tales and nursery rhymes



is sure to bring smiles to the faces of children of all ages. Toy soldier detective Kent Welch investigates a mystery surrounding certain Britains plastic Deetail Royal Canadian Mounted Police figures, in addition to penning his usual 'Fantastic Plastics' reviews of new releases.

Toy soldier maker Kenneth A. Osen recounts the convergence of history and collecting during August's Eighth Annual W. Britain Model Figures Symposium in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, USA. Scott Paget, the Canadian collector behind the informative and interesting 'Scott's Soldiers' YouTube channel, explores social media's impact on our hobby and ways that makers, traders and collectors can enjoy taking advantage of it. In addition, his fellow Canadian Scott J. Dummitt covers the Ontario Model Soldier Society's annual On Parade show and competition staged in Toronto during June.

As usual, there is a whole lot more in store in this edition, so please start turning the pages and enjoy. And, as always, happy collecting!

All the best,

**Stuart A. Hessney**  
Editor

## TOY SOLDIER COLLECTOR & HISTORICAL FIGURES

### Editor:

Stuart A. Hessney  
(stuart@guidelinepublicationsusa.com)

### Contributing Editor:

George Phillips  
(george@guidelinepublications.co.uk)

### Managing Editor:

David Grummitt  
(david@guidelinepublications.co.uk)

### Sales & Marketing Director:

Tom Foxon  
(tom@guidelinepublications.co.uk)  
Tel: +44(O) 7540153368

### Contributors:

Doug Dearth, Scott J. Dummitt, Gary Emery, E. Patrick Gallagher, David Grummitt, Stephen Healey, Paul Newman, James Opie, Kenneth A. Osen, Scott Paget, George Phillips, William Schneider and Kent Welch

### Design:

Jonathan Tabinor, Marmaduke Press

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Dunstable Business Centre, Office Suite no 2, Blackburn Road, Houghton Regis, Bedfordshire, LU5 5BQ. +44(O)1582 668411 e-mail tom@guidelinepublications.co.uk

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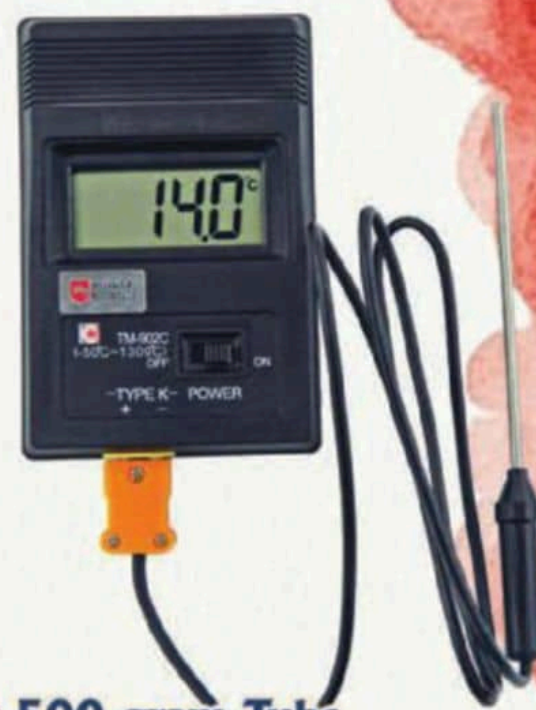
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**The latest news from across the hobby**

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Tradition proprietor Erik Lindmark has opened a new store in Stockholm.

## Tradition Opens New Store in Stockholm

By Stuart A. Hessney

Erik Lindmark, the proud proprietor of Tradition of London, opened a new store at 4 Södra Benckebriken in the historical Old Town of Stockholm, Sweden, on 4 July.

Erik travelled to Germany for the Kulmbach Zinnfiguren Börse (Tin Figure Show) in Bavaria from 9-11 August, but his shop's usual opening hours are 12:00-1600 Thursday to Saturday by appointment through September and then going forward 11:00-1600 Saturday or by appointment.

The business was originally founded by Roy Belmont-Maitland, a collector of militaria and uniforms, as Norman Newton Ltd. in London during the 1950s. Charles C. Stadden became its most prominent sculptor of figures among a stable of other luminaries. Scales offered have ranged from 30/35mm for wargaming to 54mm painted metal toy soldiers and kits along with statuesque 90mm figures.

What became known as Tradition moved its premises several times before its last physical location on Shepherd Street, Mayfair, closed in December 2012. Of course, its online store at [www.traditionoflondonshop.com](http://www.traditionoflondonshop.com) is always open and it features more than 400 sets of toy soldiers still made for the brand in England.

Erik is a lifelong collector and his grandfather founded the Toy Soldier Museum in Hjortnäs, Dalarna, Sweden. He worked with previous owner Magnus Lindström for several years before picking up the reins in 2022.



Stunning figures in various scales are showcased in Tradition's new shop.

Besides showcasing Tradition's products and offering some antique sets, the store stocks books, plates, militaria and more, including some things not available online. In addition, hobbyists can place orders online and then pick them up at the shop.

Erik promises a warm welcome awaits visitors to Tradition's new shop. And, as an added bonus, it is only a short walk from the Royal Palace for tourists.

## West Coaster Show Change in Venue

By Stuart A. Hessney

Just when organiser Matthew Murphy thought the West Coaster Toy Soldier Show had found a great new home at the Elks Lodge in Pasadena, California (see issue 117 for the 2024 show report), the US event is on the move again.

Matt explained, "The Elks have changed management. After three months of trying to rebook, it was time to move on."

The 2025 show is scheduled for 09:30 to 15:00 on Sunday, 9 March, at the Doubletree by Hilton Buena Park, 7000 Beach Boulevard, Buena Park, California 90620. It will be preceded by hotel room trading.

"The show is going back to the Disneyland area!" Matt exclaimed. "The hotel seems to be in a great spot farther north than Garden Grove (a past host city) and easy to get to from Los Angeles, Pasadena, Long Beach and San Diego."

Matt is the proprietor of the Hobby Bunker shop in Wakefield, Massachusetts. He also organises the Chicagoland and North East Toy Soldier Society shows. In addition, he serves as the US subscriptions agent for Guideline Publications, the parent company of *TSC&HF*.

The next West Coaster show is expected to feature old and new metal and plastic toy soldiers from all over the world, books, prints and more. Both traders and enthusiasts planning to participate can obtain more information from the show's Facebook page or by contacting the organiser.

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## Handley Marks Changing of the Guard At British Toy Soldier Company's Helm

By George Phillips

Following the death of British Toy Soldier Company (BTSC) founder Patrick Adams in March, his longtime collaborator Louise Handley has taken up the reins with plans to build on the brand's legacy.

"I have worked with Patrick and his wife Chris for more than sixteen years as the 'master painter' for their figure range – a title bestowed on me by Patrick that has always made me laugh," Louise explained.

"Over the years, our families have become very close," she added. Patrick always said he regarded us as part of his family and he and Chris became part of ours."

When Chris decided that she didn't want to carry on with the BTSC business, Louise asked for her blessing to take over.

"Patrick created a business from his hobby, and I want to build on what he has achieved," Louise said. "His loyal customers are also still keen to add to their collections and have responded well to the news that I have decided to continue with the business."

### Balancing Act

Louise is well known for her work as the proprietor and painter at Loggerheads Military Studio and she will continue to manage both businesses in parallel.

She explained, "I have painted figures from Patrick's moulds both in a traditional gloss finish for BTSC and in a matt or connoisseur finish for my own Loggerheads range. Consequently, the painting work will continue in parallel and commission work will also be available for anyone looking for something extra special."

To cope with the requirements of both businesses, Louise has scaled up her team.

"My husband David is now running the business website ([www.britishtoyssoldiercompany.co.uk](http://www.britishtoyssoldiercompany.co.uk)) and my children Reece and Sophie help out where they can. In addition, my sister Jayne has been brought on board to help with admin work, so I guess it has become more of a family business."

Louise added, "I have a very good sculptor in Steve Ledley. Also, as my mould maker and caster has just retired, I've moved my moulds to a new site where Andy Lyon will now be handling this work for me."

### Boats and Bargains

While Louise will continue to produce Patrick's core product catalogue, the 'Boatyard range,' which offered scratch-built nineteenth-century British gunboats in 1/32 scale, has been discontinued. The figures that accompanied the boats will remain on sale at bargain prices until the current stock is exhausted.

When asked if she had a message for BTSC's loyal customer base, Louise was unequivocal, "I want to thank everyone for their patronage through the years, and for their understanding and patience while we've been changing over to me running the business."

The new proprietor noted, "You'll still be able to collect the figures you love, produced to the same high quality that



Louise Handley's past work as the BTSC master painter has included this glossy Scots Guards Drum Corps.

Patrick insisted upon, and we'll strive to keep our figures British-made. While looking through all the moulds, I found a number of figures that have never been released, so look out for these in the coming months."



**Sorry I'm Late!**

Cartoon by Doug Dearth

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**K&C's Andy C. Neilson showcases new Vietnam War US Army Huey helicopters during his visit to the Peter Nathan Toy Soldiers shop in Sydney, Australia.**



## K&C's Neilson Connects With Aussie Collectors

By Stuart A. Hessney

King & Country Ltd. cofounder and Creative Director Andy C. Neilson capped a summertime trip from Hong Kong to visit with various Australian dealers and collectors by holding court at Sydney's Peter Nathan Toy Soldiers shop ([www.toysoldiers.com.au](http://www.toysoldiers.com.au)) Monday through Thursday, 15-18 July. Thursday evening the shop hosted its annual Collectors' Dinner at the Club York.

Owner Sven De Braekeleir recounted, "During Andy's

four days in the store, he met up with what I think was possibly the most collectors we've had during his last thirteen visits. He answered their questions and listened to their ideas for future releases, including more World War II and Vietnam War Australian figures."

According to Sven, Andy revealed future plans for releases based on Australian outlaw Ned Kelly, *The Magnificent Seven* Western movie (1960), The Beatles, World War II German and British aircraft, and a RAF operations room.

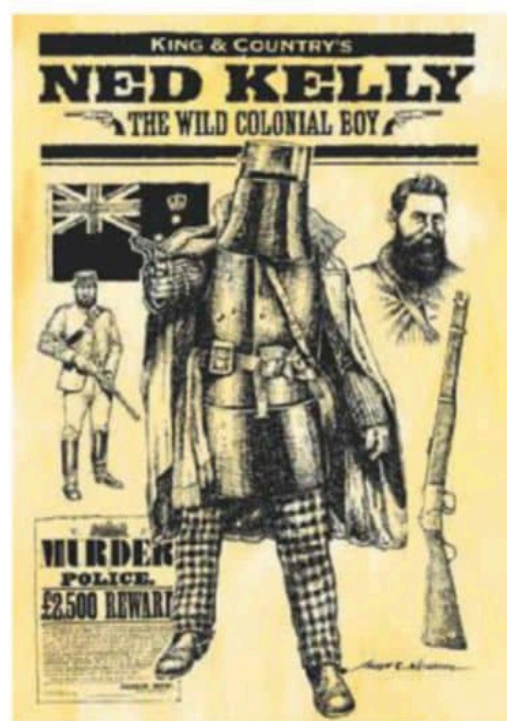
"Andy's upcoming Ned Kelly release should be a massive success in Australia," Sven said.

Sven and Frank Sultana are partners in the Last Post Miniatures range of scenic items so they conferred with Andy about producing some collaborative items to complement K&C releases such as their recent building facades for creating an Ancient Roman streetscape.

Sven reported that the dinner event was a success

with a good mix of regular attendees and first-time collectors.

"People enjoyed voting for the dioramas collectors entered in the competition as well as catching up with fellow enthusiasts," Sven said. "The food was great as usual and Andy spoke at length about the present and future of King & Country. Personally, I thought his talk was one of the best his given through the years."



**Ned Kelly artwork by Andy C. Neilson for a future release being planned.**

## Ancient Rome Recreated By Last Post Miniatures

By Stuart A. Hessney



**Sneak peek at the upcoming 'Roman Butcher Shop' (ref. BLD15).**

Frank Sultana and Sven De Braekeleir, the scenic masterminds behind Last Post Miniatures, have unveiled two more building facades to complement 1/30-scale civilians and soldiers from King & Country Ltd. designed to breathe life into dioramas recreating the streets of Ancient Rome.

The Australian duo's latest release is a 'Roman Closed Shop' with shuttered doors and windows (ref. BLD014). It comes with a choice of two different tile signs and costs \$220 AU. Sven also shared a sneak peek at a \$260 'Roman Butcher Shop' (ref. BLD15) planned for future release to complement relative K&C figures in the works.

The latter would make a total of five Roman facades available from the dynamic duo. They also include a Roman 'Wine Bar' ('Popina') (ref. BLD011), 'Amphora Seller' (ref. BLD012) and a 'Shop' ('Taberna') (ref. BLD013) priced at \$240 apiece, they. Each hand-painted building is 230mm high by 150mm wide by 80mm deep.

Other scenic items produced by Last Post ([www.lastpostminiatures.com.au](http://www.lastpostminiatures.com.au)) include war-torn Vietnamese shops, varied ruined walls, an array of accessories, scenic bases and mats, trees and plants.

In addition to the Last Post business, Sven owns the Peter Nathan Toy Soldiers shop in Sydney.

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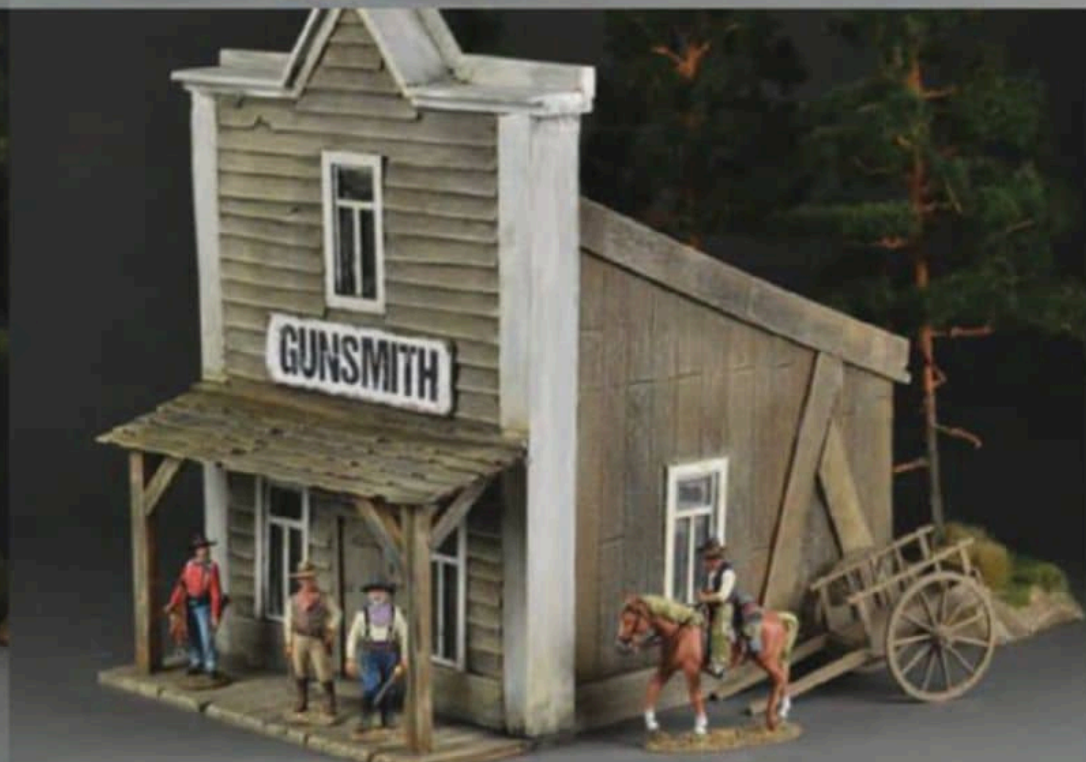
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# NEW RELEASES

**Our top-shelf team delivers news of new painted metal figures arriving on dealers' and collectors' shelves.**

New figures of the British 43rd Foot form a firing line during the American Revolution.



## W. Britain Model Figures Various New Releases

Reviewed by Stuart A. Hessney

New releases from W. Britain Model Figures are highlighted by nine different figures for reinforcing collectors' 1/30-scale displays and dioramas based on the American Revolutionary War. They include three more useful poses for the elite Regiment von Donop of Hessian jaegers and grenadiers in British service to reinforce figures that I covered last time in *TSC&HF* issue 118. Even more intriguing to me, however, are a half-dozen historically accurate figures based on the British Army's 43rd Regiment of Foot and how they represent the personal ties between two

very talented guys who are both fanatics about historical accuracy.

### Revolutionary War

The 43rd first arrived in North America in 1774 and remained for the duration of the Revolution. Its light infantry and grenadier companies fought against Massachusetts militiamen during the opening Battles of Lexington and Concord on 19 April 1775 and then at Bunker Hill the following 17 June. As the war dragged on, the regiment fought in the Battles of Rhode Island, Long Island, Fort Washington, Fort Lee and Green Spring. Ultimately,

the 43rd was present at the Siege of Yorktown in Virginia and the British surrender that effectively ended the war on 19 October 1781.

It's remarkable how this British regiment was present for both the Revolution's opening volleys and its climactic clash. I also think



'British 43rd Regiment of Foot Battalion Coy, 1st Rank Standing Firing, 1780' (ref. 16154).





**'British 43rd Regiment of Foot Battalion Coy, Make Ready, 1780' (ref. 16155).**

it is noteworthy how the 43rd played a role in bringing acclaimed military historian and artist Don Troiani and W. Britain's President and Creative Director Kenneth A. Osen together.

As part of marking the Britains toy soldier brand's 130th anniversary in 2023, Ken penned an article for issue 112 chronicling the company's history since the 1990s. He mentioned how back in the mid-1970s he joined a reenactment unit to depict a British infantryman of the 64th Regiment of Foot during the Revolution.

Ken recalled, "In 1977, I met another re-enactor that I would later become good friends with at a Battle of Brandywine re-enactment, Don Troiani. He was in the 43rd Regiment of Foot at the time. It was one of the few British regiments that served in North America for the entire war."

That chance meeting led to a long and fruitful friendship that helps underpin the historical accuracy of W. Britain's matt-painted sculptures. In addition, W. Britain is the fulfilment centre for Don's artwork and it has created an 'Art of War' series of figures



**'British 43rd Regiment of Foot Battalion Coy, Standing Handling Cartridge, 1780' (ref. 16156).**

based on his paintings.

The latest batch of 43rd Regiment Redcoats circa 1780 includes infantrymen with flintlock muskets titled 'First Rank Standing Firing' (ref. 16154), 'Make Ready'

(ref. 16155), 'Standing Handling Cartridge' (ref. 16156), 'Tear Cartridge' (ref. 16198) and 'Ramming Cartridge' (ref. 16199). They can be led by a 'Sergeant with Halberd' (ref.



**'British 43rd Regiment of Foot Battalion Coy, Tear Cartridge, 1780' (ref. 16198).**



**'British 43rd Regiment of Foot Battalion Coy, Ramming Cartridge, 1780' (ref. 16199).**





**'British 43rd Regiment of Foot, Sergeant with Halberd 1780' (ref. 16203).**

16203) who looks striking but seems a tad too youthful to be holding his symbol of rank.

Clean-shaven additions to the ranks of the Regiment von Donop include blue-clad Hessians listed as 'Tearing

Cartridge' (ref. 16189, 'Reaching for Cartridge' (ref. 16190), 'Ramming Cartridge' (ref. 16191) and 'Alert' (ref. 16192).

The British sergeant costs \$51 US and all the rest \$50. All these foot soldiers are



**'Hessian Regiment von Donop, Reaching for Cartridge' (ref. 16190).**

part of the maker's 'Clash of Empires' range.

### Civilian Themes

Two new items have bolstered the wide-ranging civilian themes of the 'Village Green' series.

They include a \$64 painted metal portrait titled 'A Gentleman Listens: Gentleman Standing with Chair, 1770-85 (ref. 35056). He sports a cocked hat, long hair and the latest fashions. He stands with his hands



**'Hessian Regiment von Donop, Tearing Cartridge' (ref. 16189).**



**'Hessian Regiment von Donop, Ramming Cartridge' (ref. 16191).**



**'Hessian Regiment von Donop, Alert' (ref. 16192).**





**'Grandpa's Little Gift: Grandson and Grandson with Hobby Horse, 1855-72' (ref. 35053).**

resting on the back of Chippendale chair and is characterised as intently listening, but to whom or what is left to a collector's imagination whether its news, gossip, a poetry reading or perhaps music

being played on a pianoforte. The most charming new item of all is called 'Grandpa's Little Gift: Grandson and Grandson with Hobby Horse, 1855-72' (ref. 35053). The youngster rides a stick horse with wheels as his



**'A Gentleman Listens: Gentleman Standing with Chair, 1770-85' (ref. 35056).**

grandfather crouches to embrace him. This set costs \$98. Both sculptures' faces are filled with love and the memorable joy of the special moment. This set costs \$98.

#### CONTACT

W. Britain Model Figures  
20 E. Water Street, Chillicothe,  
Ohio, 45601  
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**Hessian figures form a Regiment von Donop firing line.**





Examples of the new Prussian jäger figures launch an attack.

## Little Legion Toy Soldiers Various New Releases

Reviewed by George Phillips

The Wales-based workshop of Little Legion Toy Soldiers has been busy in recent months, pumping out smart new additions to its Napoleonic and Zulu Wars ranges. Proprietor Mike Norris produces 54mm metal toy soldiers with a traditional gloss paint finish.

### Napoleonic Wars

Among his new releases is a fine model of British Corporal Francis Stiles of the 1st Regiment of Dragoons depicted riding with the captured eagle standard of the French 105th Infantry Regiment



Little Legion's fine new depiction of Marshal Michel Ney giving orders.

at the Battle of Waterloo in Belgium on Sunday 18 June 1815 (ref. ST/1). While it was undoubtedly Stiles who secured the colours for the allied forces and brought them to the rear, Captain Alexander Kennedy Clark of the 1st Dragoons claimed that he had struck down the French officer carrying the flag. There was controversy and political wrangling for years about the respective roles of Stiles and Clark in the capture of the colours, though it was Stiles who received two promotions as a result of his actions. The Little Legion model is very crisply painted with terrific detailing on the flag. It can be yours for £45.50.

Collectors of the French forces at Waterloo will be thrilled at the opportunity to own a miniature of Michel Ney: the 1st Prince de la Moskowa, 1st Duke of Elchingen and a celebrated marshal of France. The red-headed Ney had a distinguished military career under the leadership of Emperor Napoleon I. Mike

has depicted Ney standing and holding a map or battle plan in one hand and his plumed marshal's bicorn in the other. This terrific new piece retails for £18.50.

Maintaining the Napoleonic theme, Mike has also released reinforcements for his popular Prussian jäger series. They include a new standard bearer (£27.50), drummer (£16), and advancing, charging and standing firing poses (£14.50 apiece). Other new poses available include kneeling firing, shot and loading musket.

### 24th Foot Officer

Little Legion's perennial and popular range based on the Anglo-Zulu War of 1879 has gained a British officer of the 24th Regiment of Foot armed with an Enfield revolver and defending the Queen's colour (ref. Z/742). The figure has been sculpted standing his ground in a realistic-looking combat pose and is priced at £26.



Please note that some of Little Legion's latest product codes were not available at the time of this writing.

#### CONTACT

Little Legion Toy Soldiers  
7 Albert Road, Penarth,  
Vale of Glamorgan, CF64 1BX  
United Kingdom  
Tel: +44 (0)2920 704331  
Website:  
[www.littlelegion.co.uk](http://www.littlelegion.co.uk)  
Email:  
[mike.littlelegion@gmail.com](mailto:mike.littlelegion@gmail.com)



Corporal Stiles (ref. ST/1) rides hell for leather with the captured colours of the French 105th Infantry Regiment at Waterloo.





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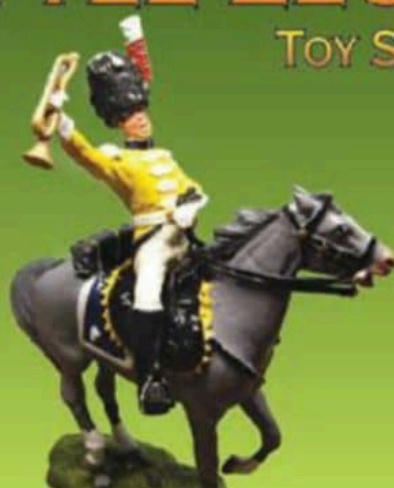
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**‘Roman Auxiliary Centurion -- Cohors II Flavia Bessorum’ (ref. ROM269).**



**‘Roman Auxiliary Signifer -- Cohors II Flavia Bessorum’ (ref. ROM270).**



**‘Roman Auxiliary Cornicen -- Cohors II Flavia Bessorum’ (ref. ROM271).**



**‘Roman Auxiliary Vexilifer -- Cohors II Flavia Bessorum’ (ref. ROM272).**



**‘Roman Auxiliary Optio -- Cohors II Flavia Bessorum’ (ref. ROM273).**



**‘Roman Auxiliary Legionary with Spear -- Cohors II Flavia Bessorum’ (ref. ROM274).**



**‘Roman Auxiliary Legionary with Sword -- Cohors II Flavia Bessorum’ (ref. ROM275).**



**‘Roman Auxiliary Wounded Legionary -- Cohors II Flavia Bessorum’ (ref. ROM278).**

## First Legion Ltd. Various New Releases

Reviewed by Stuart A. Hessney

The latest 60mm connoisseur-style releases from First Legion Ltd. encompass 23 different figures inspired by the Ancient Roman Empire and World War II.

### Auxiliary Legion

Eleven of these figures with blue shields are listed as representing *Cohors II of the Flavia Bessorum Auxiliary Legion*. As a collector, I am very interested in Ancient warfare. As a reviewer, I like to provide readers with

some history about new releases but finding details about this cohort stumped me a bit.

From what I could glean, archaeologists believe that *Cohors II Flavia Bessorum* was stationed at the *castrum* of Cincșor in the Roman province of Dacia during the second and third centuries AD. Located in the centre of today’s Romania, the stone fort was part of the *Limes Alutanus* fortified eastern border built by Emperor Hadrian to guard against

invasions and raids from the east. The cohort fort was mostly likely situated to monitor the movement of goods along the nearby Olt River and through the Cincu Pass to its north.

Though their historical context are a bit of a mystery to me, First Legion’s Roman auxiliary figures are clearly spectacular. Artistic matt painting and shading breathe vivid life into a ‘Centurion’ (ref. ROM269), ‘Signifer’ (ref. ROM270), ‘Cornicen’ (ref. ROM271),

‘Vexilifer’ (ref. ROM272), ‘Optio’ (ref. ROM273), two different poses with spears (refs. ROM274 and 276), a duo with swords (refs. ROM275 and 277), a ‘Wounded Legionary’ (ref. ROM278) and a fellow listed as ‘Legionary Defending Wounded’ (ref. ROM278).

These stunning figures are sold singly for \$84.95 US except both the centurion and vexilifer cost \$89.95.



## Battle of Stalingrad

World War II's cataclysmic Battle of Stalingrad fought from 17 July 1942 to 2 February on the Eastern Front has been a favourite subject of First Legion's Matthew Pavone and his partners since they released their first figures back in 2008. It locked invaders from Adolf Hitler's Nazi Germany and its Axis allies in a prolonged struggle for the Soviet city in southern Russia named in honour of Communist dictator Joseph Stalin.

The urban warfare was marked by ferocious close-quarters combat, aerial

raids and assaults on civilians resulting in horrendous casualties that arguably rank it as history's costliest battle. By the end of the clash of arms, German's 6th Army and 4th Panzer Army were destroyed and Army Group B routed.

Stalingrad was a turning point of the war because it shifted the initiative on the Eastern Front in the Soviet Union's favour and lifted the Red Army's morale.

Now First Legion has produced a half-dozen varied figures recreating 'Stalingrad Factory Workers Militia' who could represent furious

partisans in displays and dioramas too. Priced at \$84.95 apiece, the vivid Russians include a 'Political Commissar Advancing with Pistol' (ref. RUSSTALO74), 'Factory Worker with PPSH' (ref. RUSSTALO75), 'Older Factory Worker with Mosin' (ref. RUSSTALO76), 'Young Factory Worker with Mosin and Bayonet' (ref. RUSSTALO77), older 'Stalingrad Citizen with Molotov Cocktail' (ref. RUSSTALO78) and 'Female Medic with Grenade' (ref. RUSSTALO79).



**'Russian Political Commissar Advancing with Pistol' (ref. RUSSTALO74).**



**'Russian Factory Worker with PPSH' (ref. RUSSTALO75)**



**'Russian Older Factory Worker with Mosin' (ref. RUSSTALO76).**



**'Russian Young Factory Worker with Mosin and Bayonet' (ref. RUSSTALO77).**



**'Russian Stalingrad Citizen with Molotov Cocktail' (ref. RUSSTALO78).**



**'Russian Female Medic with Grenade' (ref. RUSSTALO79).**





**'German NCO with Walther and Panzerfaust'**  
(ref. LGW029).



**'German with Hand Grenade and K98'**  
(ref. LGW030).



**'German Kneeling Firing Gewehr 43'**  
(ref. LGW031).

## Königsberg's Defenders

First Legion has also recreated World War II German defenders of Königsberg in East Prussia from late January to 9 April 1944. By this point in the war, the surrounded city was hundreds of kilometres behind the main front line along the Eastern Front. After four days of climactic urban warfare, the garrison surrendered to Red Army forces. The city is present-day Kaliningrad, Russia.

Collectors can deploy either a 'German NCO with Walther and Panzerfaust' (ref. LGW029), 'German with Hand Grenade and K98' (ref. LGW030), 'German Kneeling Firing Gewehr 43' (ref. LGW031), 'German Advancing with MP44' (ref. LGW032), 'German Advancing with Panzerfaust' (ref. LGW033) and 'German MG42 on Tripod Team' (ref. LGW034). The latter set costs \$189.95 while the rest of these lifelike figures are sold singly for \$84.95.

### CONTACT

First Legion USA Inc.  
27835 North 47th Street  
Cave Creek, Arizona 85331  
United States of America  
US Tel: +1 (978) 925-5067  
Website: [www.firstlegionltd.com](http://www.firstlegionltd.com)  
Email: [info@firstlegionltd.com](mailto:info@firstlegionltd.com)



**'German Advancing with MP44'**  
(ref. LGW032).



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Eye-catching World War I Bristol F.2 fighter variants include 'The Crocodile' (ref. WOW546).



## Thomas Gunn Miniatures Various New Releases

Reviewed by Stuart A. Hessney

Warbirds and fetching female birds highlight the latest 1/30-scale releases from UK-based Thomas Gunn Miniatures (TGM). As usual, this UK-based maker's detailed products are painted in matt-finishes.

### It's a Crocodile!

A sampling from a wave of new hand-carved mahogany aircraft models

includes two variants of a World War I Royal Flying Corps Bristol F.2 fighter and reconnaissance aircraft. The goal was to create a biplane with enhanced self-defence capabilities and the first F.2A prototype flew in 1916. It was a twin-bay aeroplane with the fuselage suspended midway between the wings. A forward-firing Vickers machine gun was mounted

on the fuselage's centreline. The pilot sat forward of the gunner in the rear cockpit manning a machine gun mounted on a Scarff ring.

TGM has produced two variants priced at \$950 US apiece, including shipping. Their colourful paint schemes are reflected by their being named 'The Crocodile' (ref. WOW546) and 'The Brisfish' (ref. WOW545). Only one example of each type was still in stock online at the time of this writing in late August, so these are truly rare birds.

### Experimental Jet

A model of a World War II German 'Blohm & Voss P.178' (ref. WOW550) is based on an experimental jet-powered fighter bomber/dive bomber with an unusual asymmetric form. The cockpit was in the forward fuselage with an offset large fuel tank placed behind it under the starboard wing. A pair of MG 151 15mm machine guns were in the nose and it was designed to deliver 500 or 1,000-pound bombs.

The BV P.178 never got off the drawing board before

World War II German 'Blohm & Voss P.178' (ref. WOW550).

Figures and accessories are shown with TGM's warbirds for scale reference purposes only and are not included.







Warbirds include a storytelling 'Heinkel He 111 with V1 Missile' (ref. WOW556).

the war ended but TGM has created a model that measures 40cm wide by 39cm long, excluding the 75mm cannon, ranking it as a relatively large single-seater in miniature. It costs \$799 plus \$100 postage to the USA.

### Missile Mystery

TGM's new 'Heinkel He 111 with V-1 Missile' (ref. WOW556) represents what was a bit of a mystery. German flying bomb launch sites had been overrun in the wake of the Allies' D-Day invasion of French Normandy in 1944, but cities such as Manchester and Gloucester were still getting blitzed. Knowing the buzz

bomb's approximate range, Allied leaders were baffled because there was nowhere near enough left for the enemy to set up practicable launch sites.

It turned out that the Germans were using modified He 111 bombers based at airfields in the Netherlands to deliver flying bombs. A V-1 missile was quite heavy and it could be lethally tricky to launch as borne out by the loss of 77 bombers. Still 1,200 missiles were unleashed this way before attrition and Allied advances compelled the Germans to stop launching them from aircraft in mid-January 1945. The detailed bomber model with a V-1

slung under its belly is priced at \$1,499 plus \$200 shipping.

### The White Mouse

A set priced at £99/\$105 US titled 'Nancy Wake The White Mouse SOE Agent with German Officer Prisoner' (ref. SS159) takes inspiration from an amazing true story. She was born in Wellington, New Zealand, and grew up in Sydney, Australia. When World War II erupted, Nancy was living in Marseille with her French industrialist husband Henri Floca.

Following France's surrender to Nazi Germany, she joined the French Resistance as a courier

and helped downed Allied airmen evade capture to escape to Spain. Once the Germans became aware of her in 1943, Nancy fled to Spain and then went to the United Kingdom to join the Special Operations Executive (SOE) under the codename 'Hélène.' The Nazis captured and executed her husband.

As part of a three-person team, code-named 'Freelance,' Nancy parachuted into occupied France to liaise between the SOE and Maquis groups in the Auvergne region. After a Maquis defeat at the hands of a large German force in June 1944, she claimed to have bicycled 500 miles to send a situation report to the

'Nancy Wake The White Mouse SOE Agent with German Officer Prisoner' (ref. SS159B)



'German auxiliaries variants include 'Rita, Taking Notes: Brown Hair' (ref. SS149A).



'Gita, Telephone Operator: Black Hair' (ref. SS150B).



'Margot, Woman on Bicycle Generator: Blonde/Auburn Hair' (ref. SS151B).





The roof of the 'Radio Hut Number 1: Camouflaged' (ref. ACCPAK101A) variant is removed to reveal female auxiliaries inside.



'Radio Hut Number 2: Non-Camouflaged' (ref. ACCPAK102A).



SOE in London. The intrepid agent's work was extremely risky business so she frequently had to change her appearance as reflected by TGM creating versions of her wearing either black (A) or brown (B) wigs.

Nancy survived the war and was awarded the George Medal, US Medal of Freedom, Resistance medal, France's Croix de Guerre three times, the Order of Australia and New Zealand's Badge in Gold. Later she worked for the British Air Ministry's intelligence department while attached to embassies in Paris and Prague.

Nancy's autobiography *The White Mouse* was published in 1985 and she was the subject of other books and television programmes. She died in

London at age 98 in 2011.

The set portrays a SS officer stripped of his belt and pistol on his knees at Nancy's mercy as she points her pistol at his face.

"What his future holds is unknown," maker Simon Thomas Gunn mused. "It's up to collectors to decide."

### German Auxiliaries

The maker unveiled World War II German military female auxiliaries last time in issue 118. Now TGM has released a woman 'Taking Notes' (ref. SS149), a 'Telephone Operator' (ref. SS150) and most visually interesting of all a woman pedalling an electrical 'Bicycle Generator' (ref. SS151). Each pose is available with a choice of two different names and hair colour variants for £50/\$55 apiece.

They and their predecessors can staff the new 'Radio Hut Number 1: Camouflaged' (ref. ACCPAK101A) or 'Radio Hut Number 2: Non-Camouflaged' (ref. ACCPAK102A). Each £115/\$125 building has two radio aerials and 'glass' windows. Their doors don't open but the roofs are detachable so figures can be placed inside.

### More In Store

It must be the Imperial Roman *tubicen* players time of year because both TGM and King & Country Ltd. have marched some out. TGM is offering its set of two legionary trumpeters standing in bearskins (ref. ROM179) for £99/\$105.

Last but not least and just for laughs, we have a set

simply titled 'The French Foreign Legion' (ref. FFL051). It's obviously based on the Laurel and Hardy comedy team, who started their career in the silent film era and successfully transitioned to talkies.

This £105/\$110 set echoes how comic misadventures lead to them joining the Legion on film in *The Flying Deuces* (1939).

#### CONTACT

Thomas Gunn Miniatures  
Unit 4, Swan Business Park  
Warminster  
Wiltshire, BA12 8GH  
Tel: +44 (0)203 314 0090  
Website:  
[www.tomgunn.co.uk](http://www.tomgunn.co.uk)  
E-mail:  
[Welcome@gunnclub.co.uk](mailto:Welcome@gunnclub.co.uk)

Ancient 'Roman Tubicen Players' (ref. ROM179).



'The French Foreign Legion' set (ref. FFL051) salutes the cinematic comedy team Laurel and Hardy.







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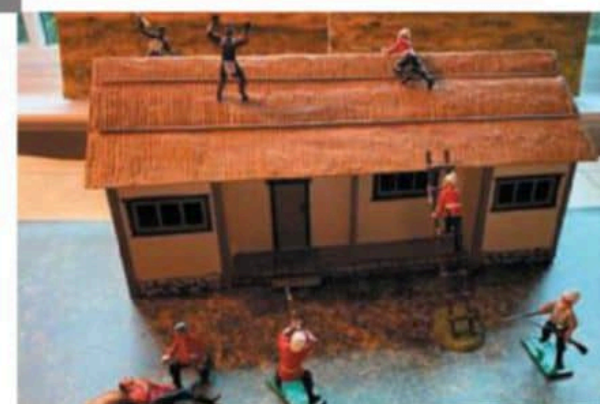
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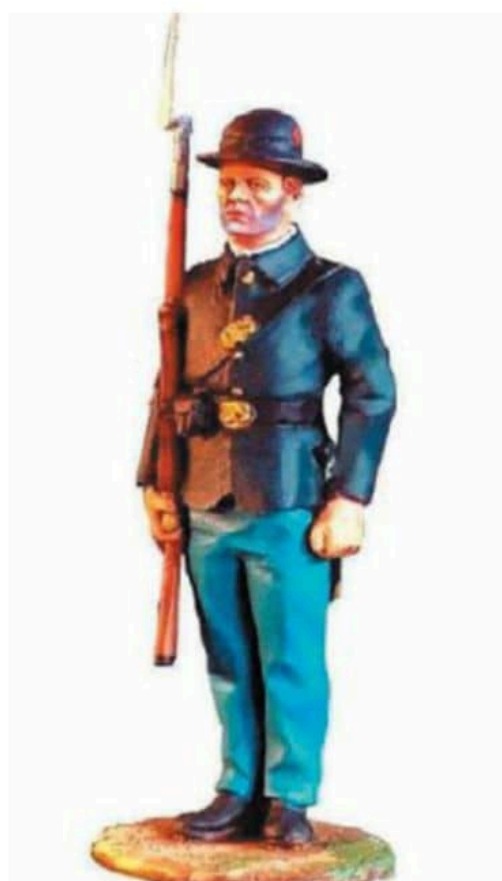
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# Kronprinz Toy Soldiers American Civil War

Reviewed by George Phillips

The American Civil War (ACW) of 1861-1865 remains a popular collecting theme for toy soldier aficionados around the world. To help meet the demand for exciting new ACW collectables, Kronprinz Toy Soldiers of Spain has expanded its catalogue with some superb new 1/30-scale releases.



**'Union Army of the Potomac' soldier (ref. ACW 006)**

## Federal Blue

The first of these is a Union rifleman of the Army of the Potomac (ref. ACW 006) standing to attention. The figure is dressed in a conventional Federal blue tunic and wears a black slouch hat bearing a red badge denoting he is a member of the 1st Division of his corps. The figure is not wearing a backpack or haversack, suggesting he is on guard or ceremonial duty. Either way, this figure would fit nicely into a Union Army camp scenario or standing alongside members of the

general staff. The item is priced at €35.

## Orr's Rifles

Another new release depicts a circa 1861 rifleman of the 1st Regiment, South Carolina Rifles, also known as Orr's Rifles (ref. ACW 112). The Confederate unit was raised in July 1861 by James Lawrence Orr at

The Kronprinz figure is accurately depicted wearing the regiment's grey woollen frock coat and trousers along with a black slouch hat to provide protection from the elements. Armed with a heavy-calibre rifle musket, the item is presented on an attractive flocked base and retails for €35.



**Three views of the soldier representing the '1st Regiment, South Carolina Rifles, 1861' (ref. ACW 112), also known as Orr's Rifles.**

## Gray Ghost

A mounted figure portrays Confederate Colonel John Singleton Mosby, who became known as the 'Gray Ghost' (ref. ACW 110). He commanded the 43rd Battalion, Virginia Cavalry. Known as 'Mosby's Rangers,' the partisan unit became notable due to its lightning-quick raids and ability to melt away to elude Union Army pursuers – hence the supernatural sobriquet.

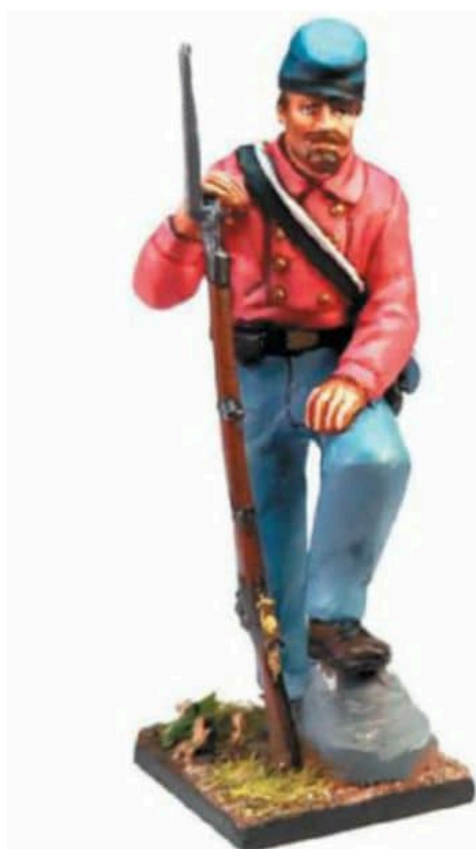
The Kronprinz model has been deftly sculpted by proprietor Emilio Arredondo with naturalistic posing and crisp paintwork. You can add this interesting character piece to your collection for €85.

Staying with the theme of Rebel officers, Kronprinz has also produced a personality figure of Colonel William Oates of the 15th



**Confederate Colonel John Singleton Mosby became known as the 'Gray Ghost' (ref. ACW 110).**





**Zouave of the Union's '11th New York Volunteers, First Bull Run, 1861' (ref. ACW 109).**



**Confederate Colonel William Oates of the 15th Alabama Regiment (ref. ACW 107).**



**Two views of the 'Union Artillery Sergeant' (ref. ACW 108).**

Alabama Regiment (ref. ACW 107). Oates commanded Confederate forces in their assault on Little Round Top on 2 July 1863, the second day of the Battle of Gettysburg.

Emilio's sculpt depicts the bearded Oates discharging his percussion revolver at an unseen enemy. This is another terrific 'named combatant' from the conflict that's worth €35 of anyone's money.

## Union Reinforcements

Switching gears from Rebel infantry to Yankee gunners, a nicely done Federal artillery sergeant is posed resting on a ramrod (ref. ACW 108). He could depict a momentary timeout during a training exercise or a short rest during a lull in a battle. Either way the humanity of this figure shines through. It is priced at €35.

Next up is a Zouave private of the 11th New York

Volunteer Infantry Regiment representing the Battle of First Bull Run on 21 July 1861 (ref. ACW 109). New York City's Irish and Italian volunteer firefighters were the backbone of the unit, sometimes referred to as the First Fire Zouaves. The 11th distinguished itself at First Bull Run at a cost of 35 men killed, 74 wounded and another 68 missing or presumed captured.

While the new figure is not wearing a full Zouave uniform, he retains his distinctive red firefighter's shirt. Another interesting non-combat pose, this soldier is priced at €35.

The final figure is a Union cavalry officer based on the Battle of Chancellorsville fought in Virginia from 30 April to 6 May 1863 (ref. ACW 111). Another nicely animated piece, the charging figure represents one of Major General George Stoneman's Federal horsemen who sought, with varying

degrees of success, to disrupt Confederate General Robert E. Lee's supply lines and communications. This collectable cavalryman retails for €85.

**'Union Cavalry Officer, Chancellorsville, 1863' (ref. ACW 111).**



### CONTACT

Kronprinz Toy Soldiers  
España NNNNN Madrid Calle  
Señora Bienvenida 39 28250  
Torrelodones Spain  
Tel: +34 6406 26049  
Website:  
[www.kronprinztoysoldiers.com](http://www.kronprinztoysoldiers.com)  
Email:  
[info@kronprinztoysoldiers.es](mailto:info@kronprinztoysoldiers.es)





**Band of the Scots Guards in greatcoats (ref. 271).**

CONTACT

The British Toy Soldier Company  
And Loggerheads Military Studio  
8 Sharpland, Loggerheads,  
Market Drayton, Shropshire TF9 4RN  
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0)7704 484955

+44 (0)7704 484955

[www.britishtoycompany.co.uk](http://www.britishtoycompany.co.uk)

E: [info@britishtoycompany.co.uk](mailto:info@britishtoycompany.co.uk)

## The British Toy Soldier Company Various New Releases

Reviewed by George Phillips

In this edition's 'Noticeboard' section, there's a news item reporting how Louise Handley has picked up the reins of The British Toy Soldier Company (BTSC) after the sad passing away of its founder and industry stalwart Patrick Adams in March.

She is best known as the proprietor of Loggerheads Military Studio, an artisan toy soldier business that produces matt and connoisseur-style painted military figures in 54mm, in addition to larger-scale display pieces.

Louise has been a longtime collaborator and friend of Patrick and Chris Adams. When Chris decided that she didn't want to carry on with the business, Louise received her blessing to continue serving BTSC's loyal customer base.

### Scots Guards Band

The moulds acquired by Louise include the elements of a previously unreleased Band of the Scots Guards wearing winter greatcoats. She thinks the moulds were made about ten years ago but the figures were never put into production. It is believed they are based on sculpts by David Scheinmann.

This awesome 31-figure set has now been cast, assembled and finished in traditional toy soldier gloss paint. The band (ref. 271) is available in this format for £345. It is quite substantial and very eye-catching.

### Royal Signal Corps

Another new release from BTSC comes in the form of 'World War II British Signal Men in the Far East' (ref. 274). As one of the combat support units of the Army, the Royal Signal Corps served in the Far East and every other theatre of war in which British land forces were engaged.

Based on an original sculpture by Steve Ledley, the six-figure set of signalmen standing at attention in tropical dress with slung Lee Enfield rifles has been produced again with a traditional gloss paint finish. This set retails for £78.

Louise is also offering customers a range of unpainted figure castings. Please contact BTSC for details on availability and prices.



**'World War II British Signal Men in the Far East' (ref. 274).**

### Examples of the castings available for purchase.





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**Email:** Contact Matt Murphy at Hobby Bunker on: [matt@hobbybunker.com](mailto:matt@hobbybunker.com)

**Hotline:** (781) 321-8855

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The new 'US Marines Troop Carrier Huey' (ref. VN189SE) is the centrepiece of a circa 1972 diorama setting created by Andy C. Neilson Minds.' Marines question captured VC fighters and suspected guerillas in a village while Navy corpsmen provide medication and first aid to women and children.



## King & Country Ltd. Various New Releases

Reviewed by Stuart A. Hessney

Toy soldier collectors' wartime Vietnam miniature rice paddies, jungles and hills can come alive with the foreboding music of two different US forces helicopters taking off from King & Country Ltd. Plus, those 1/30-scale choppers are only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to wide-ranging historical topics covered by the prolific manufacturer's recent releases.

### Vietnam War

Company cofounder and Creative Director Andy C. Neilson recently returned home to Hong Kong after a summer trip to visit with collectors and dealers in Brisbane, Sydney, Adelaide and Melbourne, Australia.

Andy recounted, "In each city, I had a marvellous time talking with King & Country enthusiasts and gathered a

great big pile of very original ideas and suggestions, as well as a relatively small number of crazy and impractical ones that come with the territory."

He added, "I also got the opportunity to visit some of the homes of collectors who have amazing collections which they have assembled

and displayed to great effect in all kinds of large and expansive dioramas that cover almost every historical era."

Most notably, Andy's travels Down Under afforded him a chance to launch K&C's new pair of iconic US Army Bell UH-1 'Iroquois' helicopters that became known as the Huey by the Grunts on the ground.

Andy observed, "No one can imagine the Vietnam conflict without the distinctive shape and whoop, whoop sound of this iconic aircraft which revolutionised warfare by performing an incredible variety of vital military tasks.

More than 7,000 Hueys flew over Vietnam day and night in all kinds of weather and terrain between 1962 and 1975. Some 3,300 of them were lost in action along with 1,151 pilots and

Vietnam War releases include 'The Walking Grunt' (ref. VN190).



'The Door Gunner' (ref. VN182) heads to his Huey.



copilots as well as another 1,231 aircrewmen, and those numbers do not include losses suffered by the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN).

K&C has issued hand-carved and painted wooden Hueys in the past, but this marks the first time it has designed and manufactured



its own 'Special Edition' mixed media models. Production has been limited to 200 of each variant with both crewed by pilot and copilot figures and packaged in full-colour presentation boxes with numbered certificates.

They include an unarmed air ambulance titled as the 'US Army Dust-Off Huey' (ref. VN183SE). The 'US Marines Troop Carrier Huey' (ref. VN189SE) can accommodate troops inside its open deck cabin ready to fly to a landing zone and go into action against communist North Vietnamese

of warfare dioramas. At first, they used undersized 1/35-scale plastic sandbags produced in Japan by Tamiya. Later they shaped and painted Blu-Tac putty and then created polystone field fortifications. Most recently Andy conceived of making piles of individual sandbags so collectors can suit themselves when recreating all types of twentieth and 21st centuries conflicts in miniature. Now a hobbyist can buy a bag of 24 'Military Sandbags' (ref. SP129) in two colours for the very reasonable price of \$15.



Examples of the versatile 'Military Sandbags' (ref. SP129) help create an elevated wooden platform for K&C's existing 'Vietnam Guard Post' (ref. SP115) to sit on.

## History in Miniature

Collectors like me fascinated by Ancient history can recreate an Imperial Roman triumph beginning with an imposing 'Mounted Roman General' (ref. ROM065). He is posed turned in the saddle on a white horse and sells for \$139.

Vietnam War combatants include the 'Advancing VC Squad Leader' (ref. VN188), 'NVA Shouting Squad Leader' (ref. VN187) and VC 'Commissar Delivering Orders' (ref. VN186) shown from the left.



Army forces or their Viet Cong allies. Each chopper retails for \$439 US.

A Huey crewman dubbed 'The Door Gunner' (ref. VN182) is posed walking and carrying both an M60 machine gun and a can of 7.62 ammunition. Figures of Marines on patrol can be joined by 'The Walking Grunt' (ref. VN190) with details including a versatile neck towel that could help cool a soldier in the tropical climate by being used to wipe away sweat, afford some relief from dust and debris, and even serve as an emergency field dressing.

For some opposition, K&C has issued a 'NVA Shouting Squad Leader' (ref. VN187) celebrating a victory by raising his AK47 assault rifle over his head, an 'Advancing VC Squad Leader' (ref. VN188) and a VC 'Commissar Delivering Orders' (ref. VN186). The latter is priced at \$45 while the other two figures cost \$47.

## Bags of Sandbags

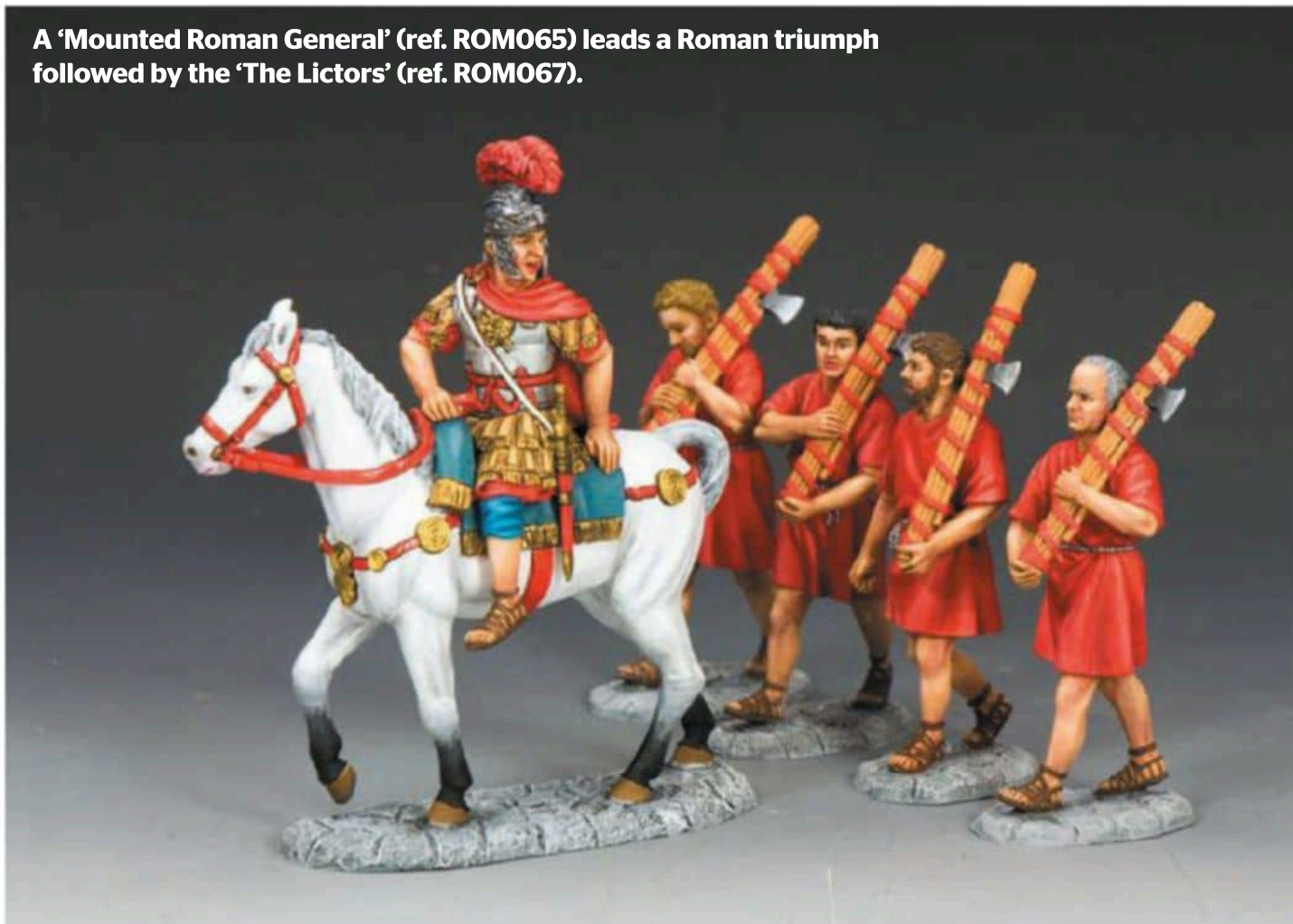
Through the years Andy worked with his late brother Gordon to come up with 1/30-scale sandbags for all sorts

The limited edition 'US Army Dust-Off Huey' (ref. VN183SE) recreates an air ambulance.





A 'Mounted Roman General' (ref. ROM065) leads a Roman triumph followed by the 'The Lictors' (ref. ROM067).



'The Country Maid' (ref. MK231).



A four-figure set priced at \$169 is titled 'The Lictors' (ref. ROM067) and depicts them in blood-red robes. They march with fasces made of wooden rods bundled around an axe to symbolise an emperor's power to both protect and punish his subjects.

The vanguard of this promising new series also includes 'The Trumpeters' (ref. ROM72). It depicts a quartet of bareheaded legionary *tubicen* players on parade and sells for \$179.

English longbowmen whose showers of arrows helped score victories over French forces in the Battles of Crecy in 1346 and Agincourt in 1415 are the subject ten nicely varied figures priced at \$49 apiece. Standing archers are posed 'Taking Aim' (ref. MK232), 'Letting Loose' (ref. MK233), 'Firing Upwards' (ref. MK234), 'Stringing His Longbow' (ref. MK236), 'Taking Aim' (ref. MK240) and 'Letting Loose (B)' (ref. MK241). Sculptures with painting variations include 'Firing Upwards (B)' (ref. MK242)



and 'Stringing His Longbow (B)' (ref. MK244). Two bowmen 'Kneeling Ready' are available as either (ref. MK234) or a (B) version (ref. MK243). Collectors can enjoy a bit of savings by buying two different groups of five archers (refs. MK-S06 or MK-S07) for \$225 apiece.

The comely 'Country Maid' (ref. MK231) carries a basket of apples and

is suitable for scenarios ranging from the Middle Ages to the time of French Emperor Napoleon I. That collectable lady sells for \$47.

The Old West 'King & Country Cattle Company Chuck Wagon' (ref. CDO33) costs \$220. It was modelled after an original example displayed at the Briscoe Western Art Museum in downtown San Antonio, Texas. I've been there, so I know the US institution is well worth visiting. Also, it's just a short drive away from the King & Country Texas store. The painstaking model features a detachable 'canvas' cover and various accessories. It's the perfect complement to this maker's 'Cattle Drive' offerings.

## World War II

K&C's World War II range has gained a 'US Marine with BAR (Browning Automatic Rifle)' (ref. USMC70). Details include six pouches that could hold a half-dozen twenty-round magazines.

'The Combined English Archers Set' (ref. MK-S06) illustrates some of the varied poses and styles afforded by ten different figures.





**'King & Country Cattle Company Chuck Wagon' (ref. CD033).**



Five new releases relate to how Andy found inspiration from a photo of German Afrika Korps soldiers riding camels somewhere in North Africa during the summer of 1941. They include an 'AK Kamel Patrol Soldaten No. 1' (ref. AK144) surveying the desert landscape, the 'AK Kamel Patrol Soldaten No. 2' (ref. AK145) with his K98 rifle unslung as his camel grazes and an 'AK Kamel Patrol Soldaten No. 3' (ref. AK146) tightly holding the reins of his ship of the desert. Those German releases are sold singly for \$129. They are complemented by two locals on foot called 'The Camel Herder' (ref. AK148) and 'The Camel Owner' (ref. AK149) wearing a white turban and a long blue robe. Either one costs \$45.

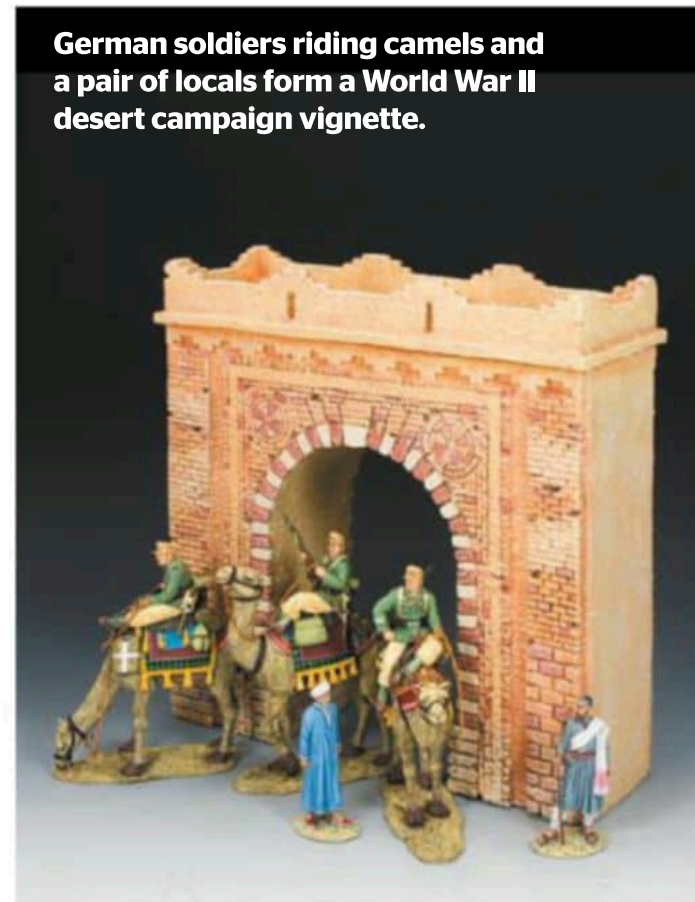
## Black Hawk Down

Last time in TSC&HF issue 118, Andy contributed a great article detailing the history and inspiration behind K&C's new

'Black Hawk Down' series based on a very black day for US ground forces supported by helicopters in Mogadishu, Somalia, on Sunday, 3 October, 1993. His sources included journalist Mark Bowden's 1999 book *Black Hawk Down: A Story of Modern War* and director Ridley Scott's epic movie *Black Hawk Down* (2001).

Now I've learned that a half-dozen of K&C's detailed US Army Rangers have been priced at \$59 apiece. Their final catalogue titles and product codes are 'Ranger Firing M16A2/M203' (ref. BH003), 'Ranger Firing His M16A2' (ref. BH003), 'Ranger Kneeling Firing M16A2' (ref. BH004), 'Ranger Firing Upwards with M16A2' (ref. BH005), 'Ranger NCO Shouting Orders' (ref. BH009) and 'Crouching Ranger Moving Forward' (ref. BH011). They are uniformly dynamic poses enhanced by authentic detailing.

**German soldiers riding camels and a pair of locals form a World War II desert campaign vignette.**



**World War II 'US Marine with BAR (Browning Automatic Rifle)' (ref. USMC70).**



### CONTACT

King & Country Ltd.  
Room 2301, 23/F  
No. 3 Lockhart Road  
Wanchai, Hong Kong  
Tel: +852 2861 3450  
Fax: +852 2861 3806  
Website: [www.kingandcountry.com](http://www.kingandcountry.com)  
Email: [sales@kingandcountry.com](mailto:sales@kingandcountry.com)

**'Black Hawk Down' US Army Rangers.**





# Charge of the Light Brigade: A Fateful Ride into History

Contributing Editor George Phillips marks the 170th anniversary of an ill-fated engagement during the Crimean War's Battle of Balaclava that has passed into military lore.

Text: George Phillips Photos: Various Sources

The Crimean War of 1853-1856 ranks as a pivotal conflict of the nineteenth century marked by geopolitical significance and well-known military engagements. Among the most famous of them is the

## Historical Context

The Crimean War emerged from a power struggle between the declining Ottoman Empire and the expanding ambitions of Imperial Russia. Ruled



'The Charge of the Light Brigade' by Richard Caton Woodville Jr., oil on canvas, 1894. (Wikimedia Commons)

Charge of the Light Brigade: an action during the Battle of Balaclava immortalised by Alfred, Lord Tennyson in his epic narrative poem and etched into military history as a symbol of both valour and the tragic futility of war.

from Constantinople - now Istanbul in the modern-day Republic of Türkiye - the Ottoman Empire was often referred to as the 'sick man of Europe' due to internal decay and external threats.



'Charge of the Light Brigade 25th Oct. 1854' from the Russian perspective as painted by William Simpson. (Wikimedia Commons)

The spark for the war was a dispute over the protection of Christian minorities in the Holy Land, which was under Ottoman control. The French, who advocated for Catholics; and the Russians, who supported Orthodox Christians; used this pretext to further their strategic interests.

In October 1853, Russia invaded the Danubian Principalities in modern-day Romania, territories that were under Ottoman

suzerainty. This prompted the Turks to declare war.

By March 1854, the European powers, primarily Britain and France, entered the fray to try to curb Russian expansion and maintain the balance of power. The war was predominantly fought on the Crimean Peninsula, with the allies key objective being Russia's Black Sea naval base and fortress at Sevastopol.



Lord Cardigan (lower left) leads the British Light Brigade through the Russian guns. Members of the US-based South Carolina Military Miniatures Club (SCMMS) created this award-winning diorama for display in 2007. (Editor's Archives)



The 11th Hussars pay the butcher's bill for their heroics. Detail from the SCMMS diorama. (Editor's Archives)



## Forces & Leaders

The Charge of the Light Brigade occurred 170 years ago during the Battle of Balaclava on 25 October 1854. The allied contingent's British forces were commanded by Lord Raglan, a seasoned but somewhat cautious leader. The Light Brigade was led by Major General James Brudenell, the 7th Earl of Cardigan.

The British light cavalry force rode relatively small mounts compared to other cavalry units, and its men were armed with lances

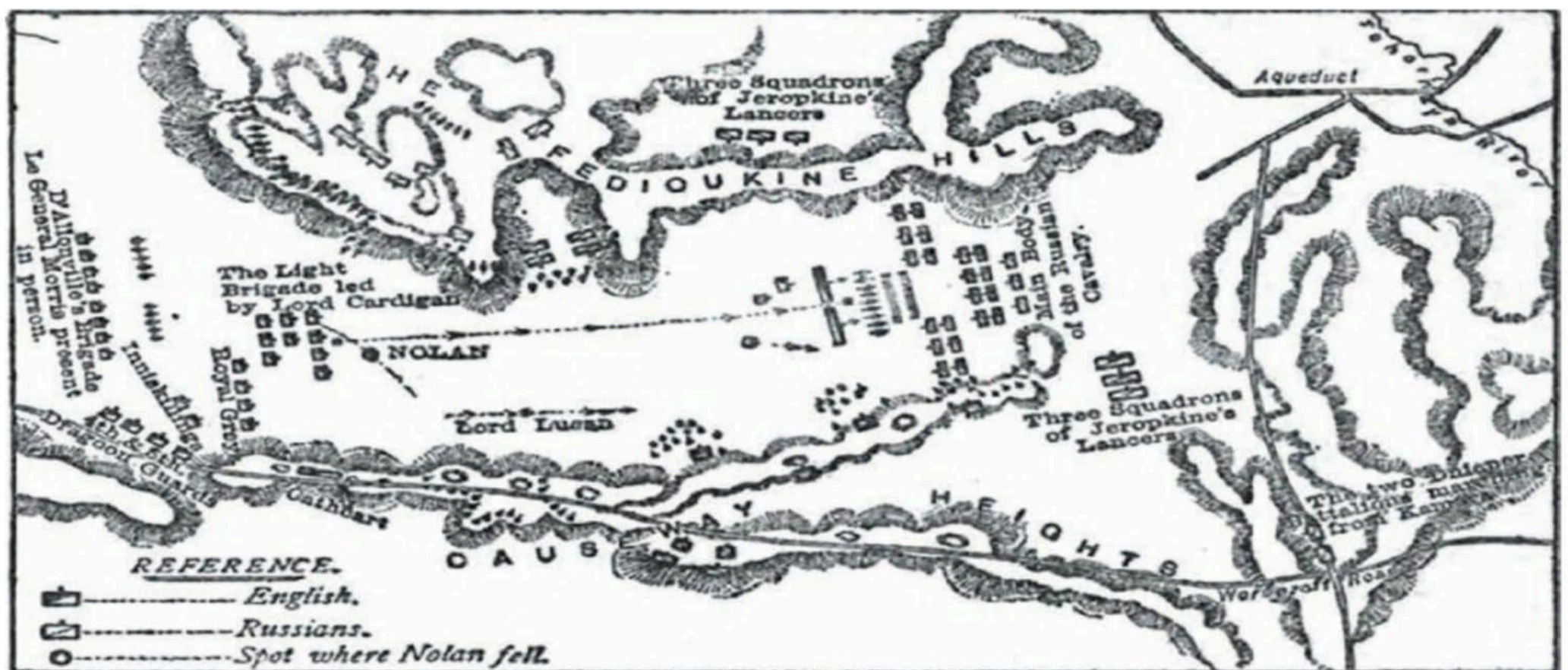
by General Pavel Liprandi, a competent and trusted military leader of Spanish-Italian descent. The Russian troops were well entrenched and equipped with a formidable array of artillery. Liprandi's defensive position in the North Valley of the Balaclava battlefield was reinforced with numerous guns, making any frontal assault a daunting prospect.

## Prelude to Charge

The battle began in the morning began with Russian attempts to capture the



The steadfast British 'Thin Red Line' of 93rd Highlanders gained acclaim at Balaclava the morning before the ill-fated cavalry charge on 25 October 1854. These toy soldiers made by Frontline Figures are from the collection of Michael Denger. (Editor's Archives).



Charge of the Light Brigade battlefield map from the 1916 book *Our Fighting Services and How They Made the Empire* by Field Marshal Sir Evelyn Wood. (Wikimedia Commons)

and sabres. Optimised for maximum mobility and speed, the Light Brigade's primary purposes were reconnaissance and skirmishing. It was also ideal for riding down and eliminating infantry and artillery units as they tried to retreat. The brigade consisted of five regiments: the 4th Light Dragoons, 8th Hussars, 11th Hussars, 13th Light Dragoons and 17th Lancers.

Supporting the Light Brigade was the Heavy Brigade, commanded by Major General Sir James Scarlett. It played a significant role earlier in the battle.

Opposing the British were Russian forces commanded

British-held supply port at Balaclava which was crucial for conducting the Siege of Sevastopol. Russian infantry and artillery assaulted Ottoman fortifications on the Voronstov Heights, including artillery redoubts, that formed Balaclava's first line of defence. The Turks resisted the attack initially but lacked support and were forced to withdraw. After the redoubts fell, Russian cavalry unsuccessfully attacked the second defensive line manned by Turkish troops and around 500 soldiers of the British 93rd Highland Regiment, who became immortalised as 'The Thin Red Line.' Then Scarlett's Heavy Brigade charged

into the fray and compelled the Russians to go on the defensive.

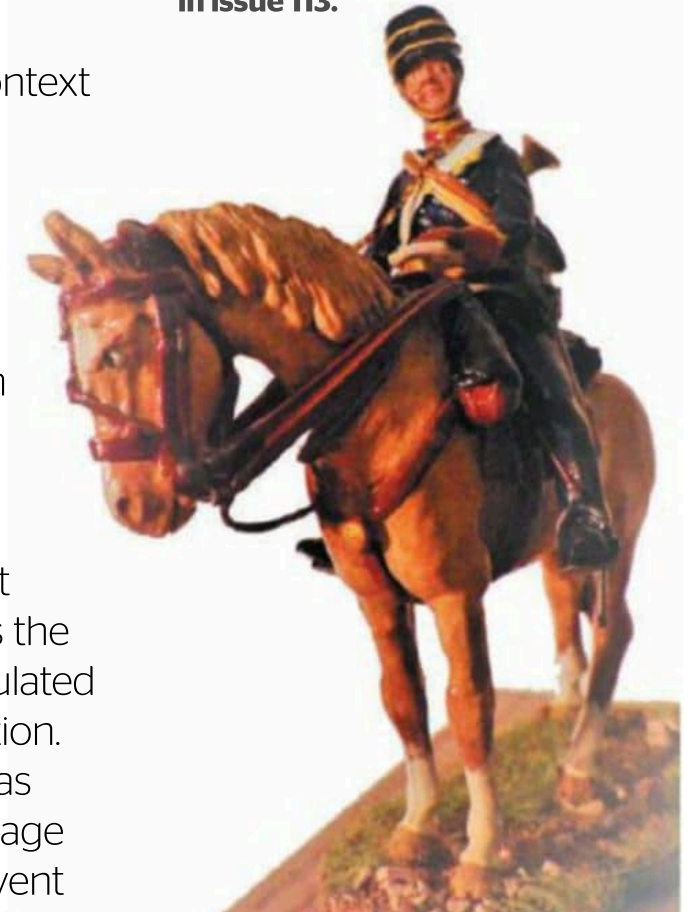
The battlefield was a chaotic scene of smoke, confusion and rapid movements. In this context of shifting front lines and fragmented communication, the stage was set for one of the most controversial orders in military history.

## Ill-Fated Order

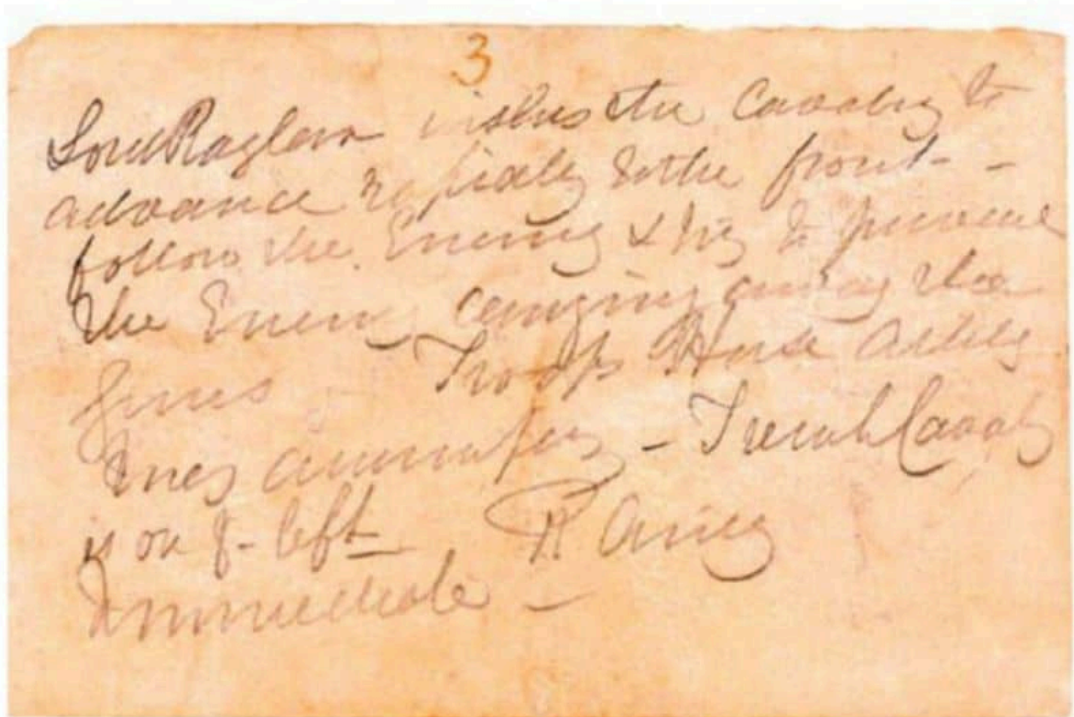
The order for the Light Brigade to charge was the result of a much speculated upon miscommunication.

Lord Raglan, who was observing from a vantage point, intended to prevent

Collector Ian Pearson's 54mm figure of 4th Light Dragoons trumpeter Hugh Crawford, who was wounded in the battle, represents Canadian connections to Balaclava as recounted in issue 113.







The controversial written order which led to the Charge of the Light Brigade 170 years ago. (National Army Museum)

the Russians from removing captured Turkish guns from the redoubts. His order, delivered by Captain Louis Nolan, instructed the Light Brigade to advance swiftly to the front and prevent the enemy from carrying away the guns. Composed by General Airey and approved by Lord Raglan, the handwritten order read as follows:

Lord Raglan wishes the Cavalry to advance rapidly to the front, follow the enemy & try to prevent the enemy carrying away the guns. Troop Horse Artillery may accompany. French cavalry is on your left. Immediate.  
--R. Airey.

Nolan carried the message to Lord Lucan, the overall commander of the British cavalry. When Lucan asked which guns were being referred to, Nolan is said to have indicated by a wide sweep of his arm not the captured Turkish guns but rather the Russian artillery positions in the North Valley around a mile away.

Despite recognising the near-suicidal nature of the task, Lord Cardigan, who was Lucan's brother-in-law, followed orders, reflecting the rigid military discipline and sense of duty that characterised the British Army.

## Valley of Death

As the Light Brigade accelerated into their charge, they faced a barrage of cannon fire from three sides. The 670-strong unit rode into the 'Valley of Death,' a term famously coined by Tennyson, the English poet laureate, in his poem 'The Charge of the Light Brigade.'

The galloping horses and their riders, armed with sabres and lances, were met with withering fire from the Russian positions. Men and horses fell in droves from the impact of cannister shot, solid round shot and explosive shells. Nevertheless, the Light

Brigade pressed on driven by a mixture of duty, bravery and the momentum of the charge.

## Valour & Tragedy

The Light Brigade managed to reach the Russian guns and engaged in brief but fierce combat. Their arrival shocked the Russian gunners, causing momentary chaos. With

The retreat was as perilous as the advance. Survivors had to navigate the same deadly gauntlet of cannon fire and suffered additional losses. The charge lasted mere minutes but resulted in devastating casualties. Out of approximately 670 men, around 110 were killed, 160 wounded and 375 horses lost.

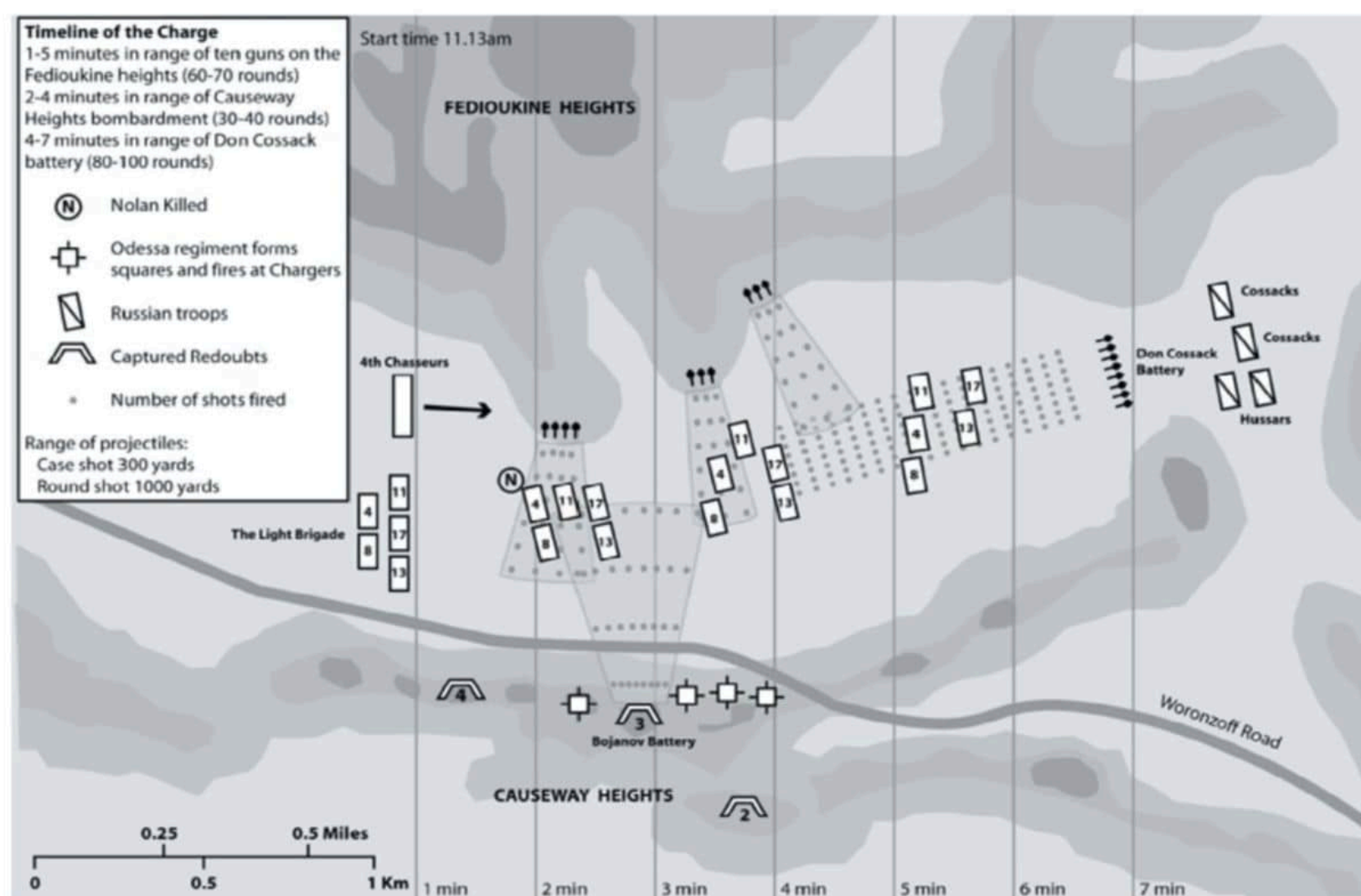


Balaclava Russian battery diorama created by hobbyist Gustav Hendrich. (Editor's Archives)

heavy casualties and no support, however, the light cavalrymen could not hold their position. Cardigan, who had led from the front, turned back leaving his men to extricate themselves as best they could.

## Aftermath & Debate

The immediate reaction to the charge was a mixture of awe at the bravery displayed and outrage at the perceived blunder. Lord Raglan defended the

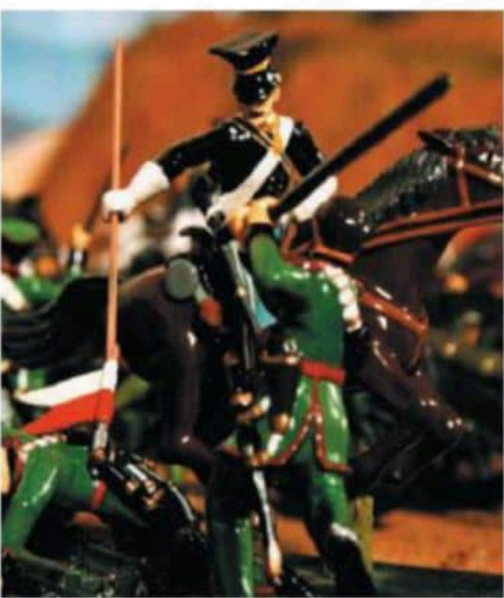


Timeline from Pieter Kuiper's 2007 book *Forgotten Heroes: The Charge of the Light Brigade*. (Wikimedia Commons)





An 1884 painting by Henri Félix Emmanuel Philippoteaux portrays the French Chasseurs d'Afrique led by General Armand d'Allonville clearing the Fedyukhin Heights during another cavalry charge during the Battle of Balaklava. (Wikimedia Commons)



Russian artillerymen try to defend their guns in the SCMMS diorama. (Editor's Archives)

order, while others sought to place blame on Captain Nolan, who had perished in the charge and could not defend himself. The British public, however, lionised the fallen heroes, and Tennyson's poem, published shortly

after, immortalised their sacrifice.

Historians have since debated the causes and responsibility for the charge. Many view it as a tragic consequence of miscommunication in the fog of war, exacerbated by rigid command structures and inadequate reconnaissance. The Light Brigade's charge is often cited as an example of the flawed but unyielding adherence to orders that characterised military operations of the era.

### Charge's Legacy

In the broader context of the Crimean War, the charge did little to alter the strategic

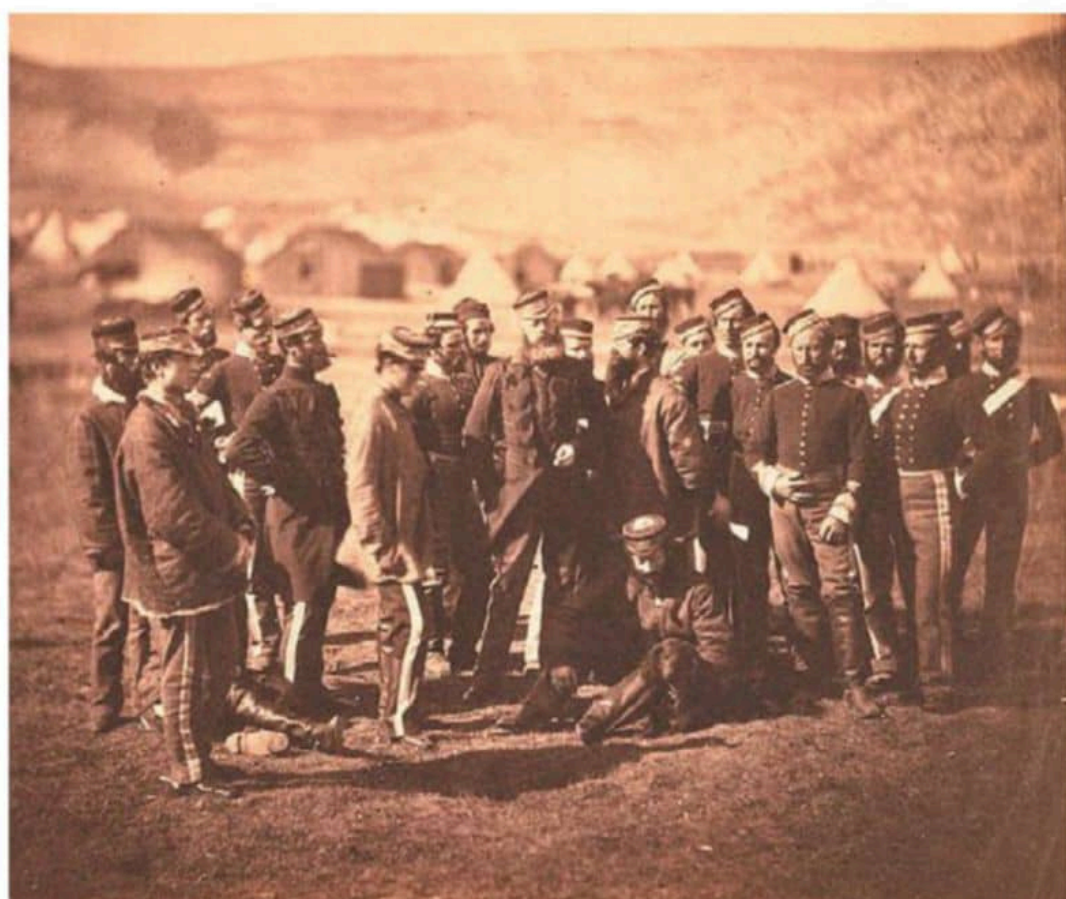
outcome of the conflict. The Siege of Sevastopol continued, eventually leading to an Allied victory and the Treaty of Paris in 1856. However, the war also exposed significant deficiencies in military logistics, medical care and coordination, prompting reforms in the British Army.

The charge remains a poignant reminder of the human cost of war and the complexities of military

command. While the valour of the Light Brigade is celebrated, the tragic outcome of the engagement serves as a cautionary tale for future generations. The Charge of the Light Brigade, with its blend of heroism and disaster, continues to resonate as a powerful example of the paradoxes of war.



Pegaso 54mm model figure portraying 11th Hussars Lieutenant Colonel John Douglas at the charge built and painted by TSC&HF 'Kit Korner' columnist Paul Newman.



Robert Fenton photograph of officers and men of the Light Brigade's 13th Light Dragoons who survived the charge. (US Library of Congress)

### ABOUT THE WRITER

#### TSC&HF Contributing Editor George Phillips

is an award-winning features writer and editor with 30 years' experience in publishing.

An enthusiastic student of ancient Greek history, he has a deep interest in the Persian War, the Peloponnesian War and the campaigns of Alexander the Great. George's interest in military miniatures was reignited 25 years ago and he has been writing for this magazine for twenty years in an experience he describes as "fascinating and rewarding."



# Toy Soldier Social Media

**Scott Paget** outlines ways makers, traders and hobbyists can connect online to enjoy fellowship, trumpet new releases, exchange how-to advice, share peeks at collections and lots more.

Text: Scott Paget

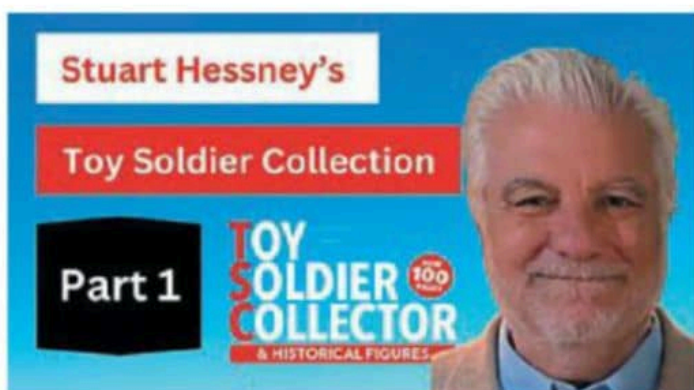
Photos: Scott Paget and Internet

Looking through some old copies of the former *Toy Soldier & Model Figure* magazine, I came across an article written by Samuel Cyr in issue 147-August 2010 titled 'Toy Soldier Fraternizing.' He wrote about the potential windfall that online social media could have for traders, makers and the toy soldier and historical figures community. At the time, he was referencing the rising platforms of Facebook and Twitter.



**Writer Scott Paget produces and hosts wide-ranging videos for his own Scott's Soldiers channel on YouTube.**

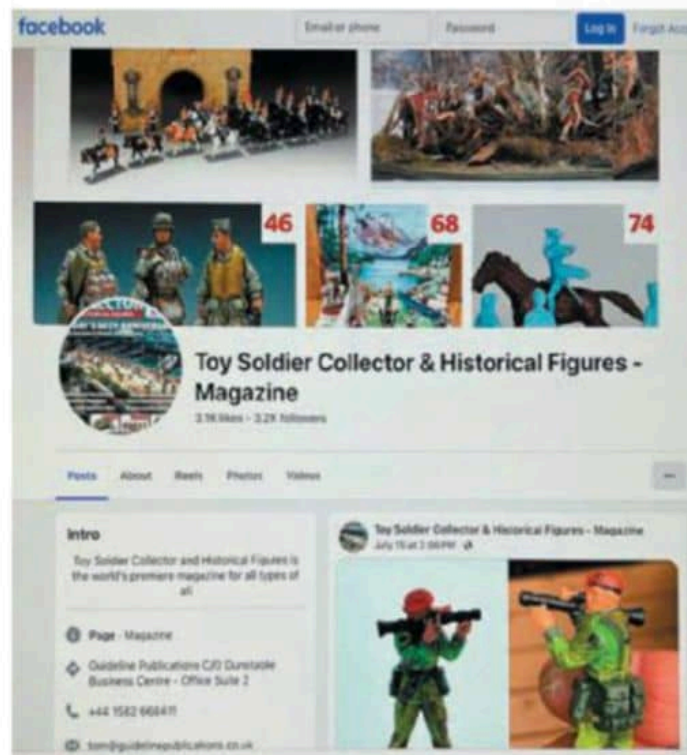
Fast forward to 2024, and we can see how those and other Internet platforms have proliferated and expanded their numbers of monthly active users (MAU). While X (Twitter) is ranked sixth (541 million MAU), it has been



**Mark Silverthorn of the OMSS has produced a variety of videos featuring TSC&HF Editor Stuart A. Hessney.**

surpassed by Facebook in first place (3 billion MAU) and YouTube ranks second (2.5 billion MAU). What draws users to these platforms will be studied by social scientists for years to come.

There is no reliable data to parse out the toy soldier hobby community from every other community or



**The TSC&HF home page on Facebook.**

users on social media. Even counting the number of Facebook pages or YouTube channels that exist for our hobby pursuits would be a challenge. As Cyr wrote, what we can say is that our hobby has staked out a presence and this has created followers, pages, subscribers, likes and views.

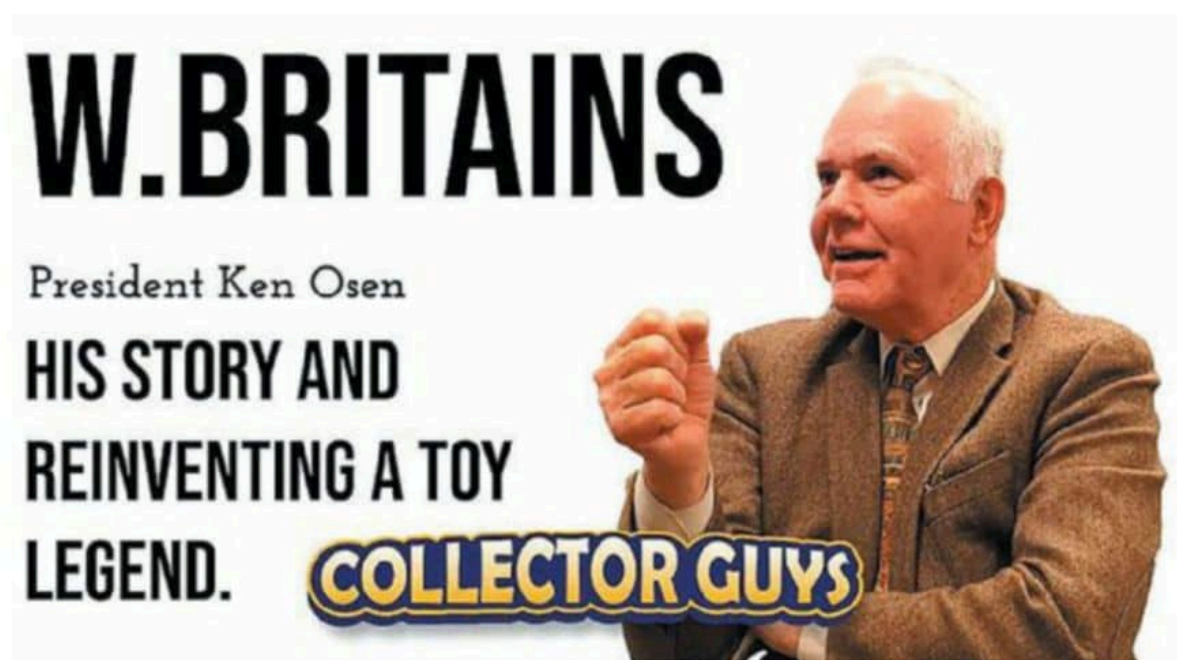
issue 118. Hobbyists can enjoy online shopping from dealers around the world without ever having to leave the comfort of our own homes.

In addition, enthusiasts can subscribe to the YouTube channels of makers such as W. Britain Model Figures and King & Country Ltd. to watch videos featuring their new products. We can also enjoy wide-ranging content produced by clubs such as Canada's Ontario Model Soldier Society (OMSS).

Those examples are just the tip of the iceberg. Searching online can uncover individual collectors, clubs, shows, how-to tips and cottage makers who are all promoting, marketing and sharing our hobby to draw more followers into the toy soldier tent.

## Global Community

Our community is not what it was 50 or even 30 years ago when we relied on physical locations or print



**YouTube videos by the Collector Guys include in interesting interview with W. Britain Model Figures President Kenneth A. Osen.**

## Facebook, YouTube

For example, we can link ourselves to the Facebook pages of *Toy Soldier Collector & Historical Figures* magazine, clubs and makers such as UK-based Replica Metal Soldiers & Models, whose proprietor Andrew Stevenson recently launched the online International Toy Soldier Club as reported in *TSC&HF*

publications to meet, share information or communicate. Today, and this is more than anecdotal, the numbers in terms of shows, memberships in societies and manufacturers are all sloping downward. While this is happening at both local and national levels, hobbyists' ability to reach out to a digital global community has never



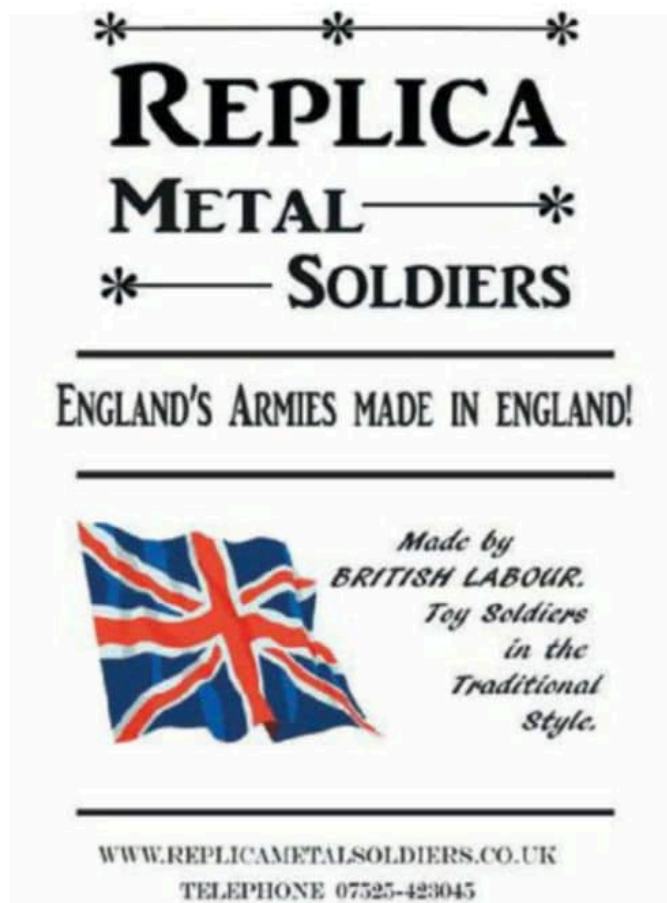


**King & Country Ltd. cofounder and Creative Director Andy C. Neilson unveils new releases on YouTube**

been easier. Social media enables us to connect and share like never before.

The proof is in the diversity of subjects, languages, persons and choice of platforms available to the average online user, and the toy soldier community is no exception. Whether your interests are buying and selling,

social interactions with like-minded communities. Far-flung members of groups such as the OMSS and the British Model Soldier Society (BMSS) can even enjoy the fellowship of meeting without having to consider the cost and time entailed in travelling far from their homes.



**British maker Andrew Stevenson's Facebook home page for his Replica Metal Soldiers & Models.**

learning how to paint figures, collecting 1/6th-scale figures, wargaming, recruiting Napoleonic figures in metal or plastic or fantasy figures, there's a social media platform for you or waiting for you to kickstart one.

## Easy and Free

Why are social media platforms successful? Primarily it's because of the ease of use, zero cost to join and participate, and the depth to which they facilitate or empower our



**Fans of figures by First Legion Ltd. can visit its Facebook page.**

The Internet affords a 'build it and they will come' approach to connecting or creating relationships within the global toy soldier community. The platforms want you to create a page or channel and there is no lack of information or support to guide you on how to maximize your participation. The cost is mostly your time and effort,

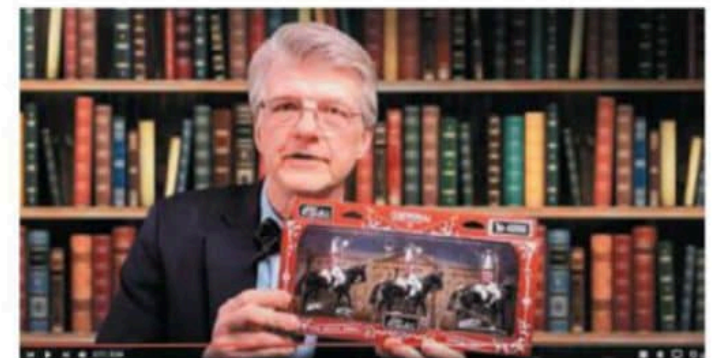
and you can walk away anytime with no obligation.

With YouTube, the more you watch, the more the platform learns what your interests are, regardless of how many subjects you click on. So, if your interest is plastic toy soldiers, building dioramas or hobby events and shows, you're in luck! Over a period of time, the platform will recommend videos to you which reflect your viewing tastes thereby enabling you to see more of what interests you in the hobby versus the constant hunt and peck method which eats into your viewing time. Think of it as being like having a new version of *TSC&HF* magazine sent to your door every day.

## Scott's Soldiers

A case in point is Scott's Soldiers, my own YouTube channel about my toy soldier collection and my hobby experiences. Simply by viewing my episodes, your likelihood of having related videos recommended to you will increase.

Hit the 'like' and 'subscribe' buttons and you will always be alerted that



**W. Britain Model Figures Operations Manager Ted Deddens hosts a YouTube video spotlighting the brand's British ceremonial figures.**

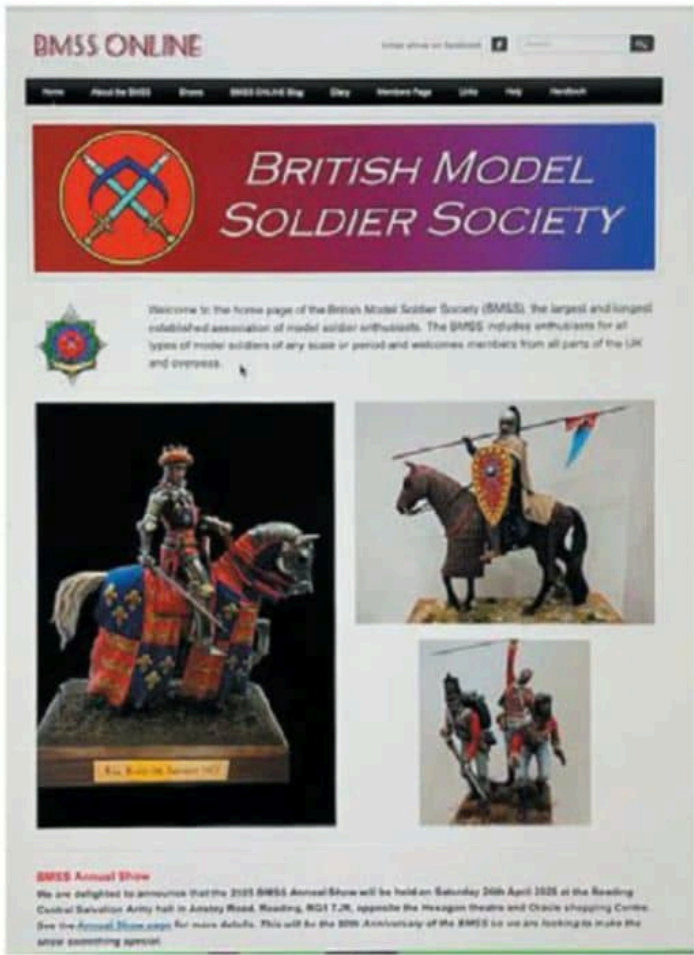
a favourite channel has posted new content. In addition, YouTube will recommend videos from other similar channels.

Participation is free. Whether you subscribe, comment or like an episode, the degree to which you engage is entirely up to you.

YouTube provides metrics on the performance of my channel. Consequently, I can see that my videos have reached English and non-English speaking viewers around the world. My videos are viewed 24 hours a day, auto-translated to any number of languages and available to anyone with access to the World Wide Web.

There is a summary that allows you to read what an episode is about and a comments portion for you to express yourself politely and respectfully to others. In my opinion, this is a forum for the viewers, not necessarily for the creators, to share and discuss their thoughts.





Homepage of the BMSS website.

Sharing, Learning

So, are we achieving at least some of Cyr’s goals? I think so because elements of our community can be found on these platforms. As collectors and hobbyists, we are sharing and learning, conducting sales, observing trends in almost real time, and expressing ourselves while doing so in a generally collegial, non-judgemental manner.

What is available to our community? A lot! Via Facebook collectors can coalesce around a page where figures are bought and sold, questions are asked and answered, notifications of toy soldier related events are posted, images of figures are provided and experiences shared. As an example, I think of the OMSS Facebook page encompasses all those activities.

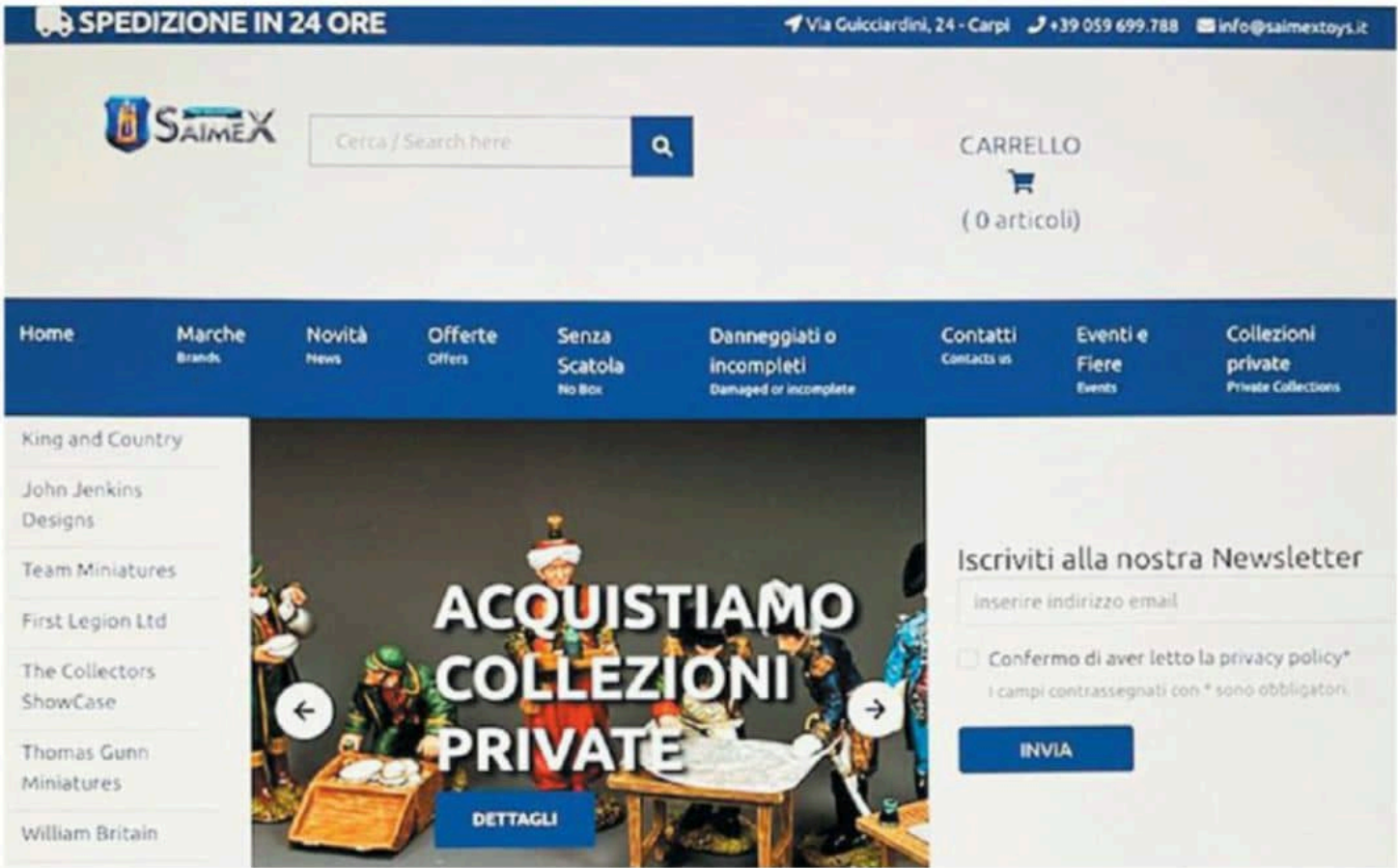
The same can be said for YouTube, but there the emphasis is on creating visual content around a subject and

then posting it warts and all to a global audience or live streaming an event. As a visual experience, YouTube videos show the perspectives and knowledge of hobby insiders, experts and enthusiasts via channels such as Scott’s Soldiers, BigJon007, the OMSS, the Plastic General and the Collector Guys, to name just a few examples.

I think this allows YouTube content to be richer, more granular and

Here to Stay

Social media is here to stay. It is a way to keep engaged, current and knowledgeable of what is happening in your backyard or a continent away. It can help you plan trips to visit toy soldier shops or give you an appreciation for a hobby show. Without having to travel, you can speak with fellow collectors, get opinions and



Thanks to the Internet, today’s collectors can socialise or go shopping around the world without ever having to leave the comfort of their own homes thanks to the online presence of dealers such as Stefano Allorini of Saimex Toy Soldiers in Italy.

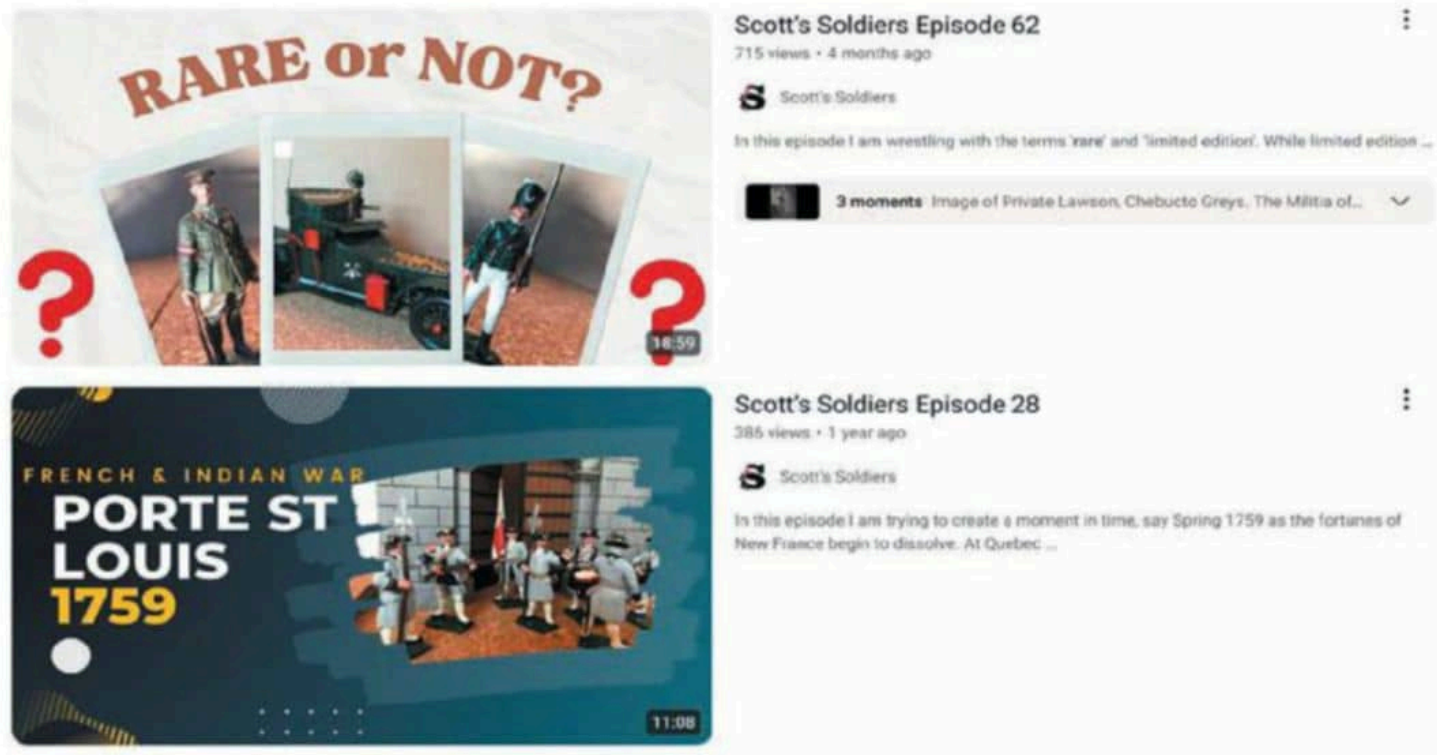
more diverse. There are looks at manufacturers, special events and personal collections, but there are also historical perspectives, how-to tips, new product reviews and more.

The differences might reflect each platform’s respective mission statements. Facebook affords people the power to build a community and bring the world closer together. YouTube gives everyone a voice and shows them the world.

assessments or purchase a figure that you had on your bucket list.

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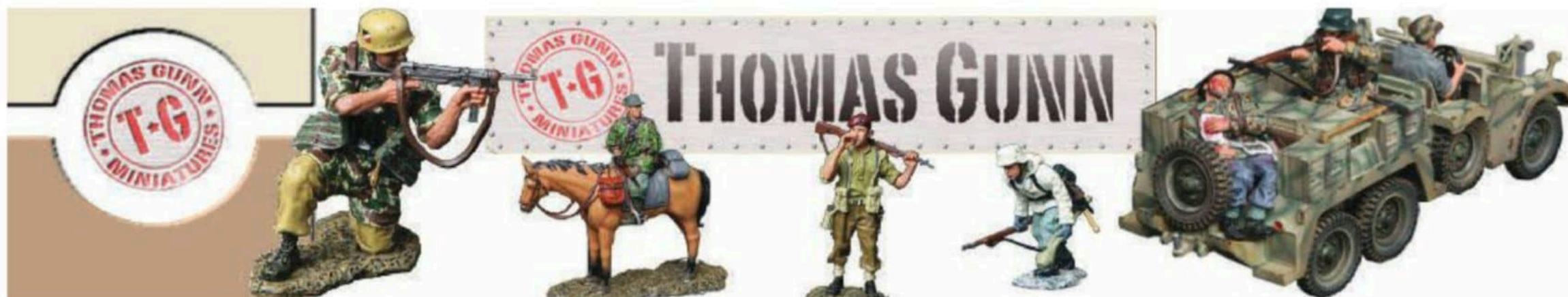


Just a couple examples of the wide-ranging topics covered on the Scott’s Soldiers YouTube channel.

ABOUT THE WRITER

Canadian Scott Paget is the creator of the YouTube channel Scott’s Soldiers which presents aspects of his toy soldier collection and his hobby-related experiences. He is a member of both the OMSS and BMSS, an occasional guest on the OMSS YouTube channel and a contributor to the Canadian club’s publications.





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# By Fire and Bayonet

Gary Emery explores history behind colonial clashes of the Napoleonic Wars in miniature.

Text and Photos: Gary Emery

Like many toy soldier enthusiasts, I enjoy collecting exquisite military miniatures inspired by the Napoleonic Wars, the most colourful of times. The era was colourful in the sense of the many campaigns, personalities and above all the vivid uniforms the combatants from all sides wore. It seemed like combatant nations tried to outdo each other with the ornate vibrancy they clothed the men who put their lives on the line with gunfire and bayonets for king and country.



**'HM Malay Regiment, 1st Ceylon Regiment, Ceylon, 1804-14'**  
(ref. 282) by Beau Geste.

## World War

I love gazing at my toy soldier shelves that highlight this time period. Massed groupings of these ornate figures are further enhanced by LED lighting that brings them to life like gold, silver or diamond trinkets in a jeweller's shop. The azure blue of the French, crimson red of the British, pastoral green of the Russians, dark Prussian blue and the creamy white of the Austrians are all represented. As my eyes drift left and right along my shelves, however, flanking those miniature warriors are perhaps some of the more unusual figures in my collection.

The Napoleonic campaigns were not just skirmishes and battles fought across the muddy and misty fields of Europe because it was truly a world war. Global conflicts sprung up like bushfires in places such as the Caribbean, North Africa, India, North America, the Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East. Those clashes, sometimes referred to as 'sideshows,' were important in their own right, caused tremendous suffering for all those involved and, in many cases, left a lasting legacy.



**Beau Geste's French 'Fusiliers, Bourbon Regiment, Mauritius, 1810-12'**  
(ref. 107).

## Egyptian Campaign

As my collection tends to be ordered by a loose historical timeline, to the left of the 1/32 and 1/30-scale painted metal figures depicting major battles such as Waterloo and Borodino are a small group of toy soldiers depicting Napoleon Bonaparte's Egyptian campaign (1798-1800). Early in his military career as France emerged from its Revolution traumas, the young general embarked on an expedition to conquer Egypt, push on through the Middle East and threaten British interests in India. At best, his plans were ambitious. At their worst, they were simply foolhardy.



**British 'Rifle Company, 2nd Ceylon Regiment, 1803-14'**  
(ref. 108) by Beau Geste.



Egypt was nominally part of the Ottoman Empire but ruled by the Mamelukes. Originally a slave population, they rose up to take control of Egypt during the Middle Ages. They lived in self-indulgent opulence and ruled with an iron fist. There is little doubt that the Mamelukes were brave soldiers who relied on their fearsome cavalry to destroy their enemies with mobility and power but, of course, they had not come up against a modern European army armed with muskets and artillery before.



**Del Prado figures of British dragoons in action in the colonies.**

Napoleon's conquest of the Land of the Nile was relatively easy. After capturing the coastal city of Alexandria, he pushed up the Nile River until the Mamelukes were forced to give battle just outside their capital city of Cairo.

Fought on 21 July 1798, the Battle of the Pyramids has been romanticised for propaganda purposes. For example, it was purported to be fought in the shadow of the Ancient pyramids when they were in fact too far away to be seen. Nonetheless French infantry squares and artillery repeatedly stopped the forlorn charges of the courageous Mameluke cavalry.



**Del Prado figure depicting French militia in the Caribbean.**



**Figures by W. Britain represent how French regular forces fought bravely in the Haitian uprising but abandoned the island after years of fighting.**





**W. Britain figures of US troops in action during the War of 1812.**

Once Egypt had been conquered, Napoleon set about documenting and exploring its history thanks to the efforts of artists, engineers, archaeologists, scholars and botanists who accompanied his expeditionary forces. A European obsession with all things Egyptian was sparked during this long-forgotten conflict and it is still prevalent to this day with many items stolen from the land of the pharaohs still exhibited in British, French and other museums around the world.

The second phase of Napoleon's campaign was disastrous as he failed to defeat Turkish forces holding out in coastal towns along the coast of Palestine and Syria. Also, British Rear-Admiral Sir Horatio Nelson's decisive victory over the French navy in the Battle of the Nile on 1-3 August 1798 had made reinforcing and resupplying Napoleon's forces in the Middle East virtually impossible. As his forces dwindled, Napoleon escaped back to France, leaving his troops to their own fate.

The Egyptian campaign fizzled out with surviving French troops surrendering to the British in 1801. They were transported back to France to fight another day. A final legacy of this conflict was the inclusion of Mameluke cavalry in the French army on the express orders of Napoleon, who admired their bravery greatly at the Battle of the Pyramids.

In the mid-2000s, King & Country Ltd. produced a 1/30-scale range of figures depicting this early Napoleonic campaign. The figures were colourful but did not provide much in the way of opposition. In particular, there was an

absence of Mameluke cavalry. I remedied this to a certain extent by purchasing 1/32-scale Mameluke cavalry and artillery from Alexanders Toy Soldiers. While they are slightly smaller than the K&C figures, I commissioned them to be painted in matt finishes. Although the scale difference might not be for the purist, these Mameluke cavalry figures certainly cut a dash across my toy soldier shelves.

## **Caribbean Clashes**

British sea power was to prove pivotal in the next theatre of operations: the Caribbean. As the Napoleonic Wars raged across Europe, France was also attacking British shipping in and around the Caribbean Sea. French forces used the islands they had control of as safe ports to retire to after engaging the British. This clearly would not do for King George III's government. Between 1804 and 1810 the Royal Navy successfully beat off its French counterparts in the region, stopped the enemy's flow of reinforcements and resupply to its islands, and then systematically landed troops and conquered all the French territory. The first French Eagle captured during the Napoleonic Wars was taken during those island conquests.



**Corfu is the setting for Beau Geste's 'Fusiliers, Albanian Regiment, 1808' (ref. 235).**

The opposing superpowers not only relied on regular troops but also on local militia to do much of fighting. Britain's successfully seized the islands of Santo-Domingo, Martinique and Guadeloupe via amphibious operations. France essentially lost influence in the area and was unable to trade from its rich sugar plantations. Meanwhile, Britain could successfully halt the slave trade that French-controlled plantations still relied on.

My shelves are graced with exquisitely painted colonial militia from this more unusual Napoleonic campaign in the West Indies. Argentinian manufacturer Beau Geste has produced a superb gloss range of figures from this theatre of operations. They focus on local militia forces for both French and British combatants. I am a big fan of Beau Geste's work and proudly display several sets of these figures with local troops commanded by French or British officers, as was normal for this period of time. I also have a few Del Prado figures to help enhance my Caribbean display as these figures march along miniature white sandy beaches edged with lush palm trees with a backdrop of warm seas.



**'Troops in Saint-Domingue with Toussaint L'Ouverture, Haiti, 1802' (ref. 205) by Beau Geste.**



## Haitian Revolution

While perusing Beau Geste's online catalogue, I came across an unusual set of dismounted 'Polish Lancers in Saint-Domingue, Haiti, 1802' (ref. 208). What were Polish lancers in French service wearing floppy hats doing there? I decided this was a must-have set for me. I placed my order and then set about researching the strange tale of the Haitian Revolution of 1791-1804, a successful anti-slavery and anti-colonial uprising.



**K&C figures depict French regulars in action during the Battle of the Pyramids.**



**A K&C figure is enlisted to depict Napoleon in Egypt.**

The French Revolution had abolished slavery. Echoing the Declaration of Independence adopted during the American Revolutionary War, the French embraced the principle that 'all men are created equal.' Like the American lofty ideal, however, it didn't really work across all French territories. Sugar cane plantation owners in Caribbean had grown wealthy on the backs of African slaves and they were hardly likely to give them up. The French government turned a blind eye because it benefited from the rich Caribbean trade while the people of France had developed a sweet tooth.



**'Polish Lancers in Saint-Domingue, Haiti, 1802' (ref. 208) by Beau Geste.**





**Brave Mameluke cavalry charges could not break the French during the Egyptian campaign.**



**Napoleon was so impressed by the Mameluke cavalry that he enlisted some into his army. Drum horse figure by Del Prado.**

Former slave Toussaint L'Ouverture emerged as Haiti's hero. After a long struggle, he defeated the French overlords and gained independence. Haiti became a non-slave nation ruled by non-whites. It was quite an achievement during this period of history. It represented the largest slave uprising since the unsuccessful Spartacus revolt during the Third Servile War against the Roman Republic from 73-71 BC.

I just had to buy another set from Beau Geste representing Toussaint and his revolutionary comrades in arms. The seven-piece set is titled 'Troops in Saint-Domingue with Toussaint L'Ouverture, Haiti, 1802' (ref. 205).

An interesting footnote is that many atrocities were committed by both sides during the conflict. The Polish troops that Napoleon sent to Haiti because they had been causing trouble while languishing in Italy were however treated better than other French forces by the Haitians. This seems to be because the Polish were there under sufferance and viewed by revolutionary troops as being slaves of the French like them. I like to think my little group of Polish lancers were spared the torture and death suffered by their captured French comrades.



**British Marines conducted many amphibious landings during the West Indian campaign. Figures by K&C.**



## Indian Theatre

Around the same time as war was raging across the West Indies, halfway around the world a proxy war in the Indian subcontinent sprang up like spot fires in dry bushland. I say 'proxy' because few European troops were involved with the French trying to disrupt British influence in India by sponsoring local rebellions and uprisings by warring princes. With Britain doing the same, it became a conflict fought on behalf of European powers in what were essentially Indian civil wars.



**K&C figures embody how the Royal Navy ruled the seas during the Napoleonic Wars and gave Britain a huge advantage in colonial conflicts.**

Some French volunteers and officers did land in India to lend support – particularly to Tipu Sultan, whose Mysore province was in open conflict with Britain. Ultimately, Britain's sea power enabled it to play a greater role in Indian affairs. Supported by the vast resources and the sepoy army of the East India Company commanded by European NCOs and officers, the British were able to extinguish the threat posed by rebellious Indians and French forces.

Beau Geste was once again the source of my related figures. While there is not an extensive range on proprietor Ana Donzino's website, she has had several colourful sets on offer depicting the British Ceylon, Malay and Madras infantry regiments. The gap in my collection is not having been able to acquire any Franco/Indian opposition for those fine sepoy figures.

## Mediterranean Clashes

France seemed to be continually at war with the Austrian Empire and Italian states under its influence. French successes had ensured that the Austrians lost territory in Italy, Poland, the Balkans and, after seizing Venice, the Greek Ionian Islands.

They were in French hands for only two years before a joint Russian/Ottoman offensive saw the islands lost to French control. However, a treaty with Russia in 1807 allowed France to regain control of some of the islands again while the British gained sway over many of the more southern Ionian islands.

Defence of this strategically important area of the Eastern Mediterranean was not just the domain of regular troops but local militia and mercenary troops employed by both sides.

Beau Geste again came to the rescue of this toy soldier collector with some wonderful Albanian mercenaries in

French service. The maker's 'Colonial Regiments in the Napoleonic Era' series includes the 'Fusiliers, Albanian Regiment, 1808' (ref. 235). These little figures certainly pack an exotic punch as the march down the main street of a small town in Corfu.



**French and Ottoman cavalry clash in Palestine circa 1799. Figures by K&C and Del Prado.**

I also have some unusual Greek soldiers in British service. Their crimson red tunics coupled with traditional Greek attire make for a unique set of figures from Argentinian manufacturer Manes Marzano. Interestingly, the 54mm figures were sculpted and produced by J. Fernando Manes Marzano, a popular political cartoonist in Argentina. Sadly, he appears to have ceased making his wonderful glossy figures.



**Beau Geste set of the '4th Madras Native Infantry, Colonial India, 1800' (ref. 241).**

## War of 1812

North America did not avoid conflict during this time of murderous global warfare. The United States of America declared war on Britain in 1812. Huge losses of Royal Navy seamen during this period tempted Britain to press gang sailors from neutral US ships. This and other liberties taken by their former overlords forced the States to declare war.

Britain sent its best troops to the former colonies but ultimately, they were humiliated by the Americans at the Battle of New Orleans on 8 January 1815. John Jenkins Designs and W. Britain Model Figures both have manufactured figures covering this conflict.





**British 'West India Regiment 1814' (ref. 295)  
by The Metal Toy Soldiers of Wm Hocker, Proprietor.**

## African Events

Britain was also keen to protect its African colonies, particularly the previous slave trade areas of West Africa. The French still had a strong enough navy to cause trouble, if allowed to enter foreign ports unchallenged.

British regular troops were engaged in many different areas of conflict and would be stretched too thin to cover all the far-flung outposts of the Empire. Consequently, colonial militia was raised to perform garrison duties, quell local uprisings and deter any French incursions. One such regiment was the Royal African Corps raised in 1804 and based in colonies including Senegal, Sierra Leone and Gambia.

Beau Geste's set (ref. 110) saluting this unit is composed of a European officer and a Black drummer in scarlet leading five other ranks resplendent in grey jackets, white trousers and shakos with green plumes. They look dashing on patrol in my West African jungle diorama.

The British also occupied the Cape Colony in South Africa during this period because it was vital to link Britain with India prior to the opening of the Suez Canal. This occupation eventually led the Dutch to cede the colony to the British. Soldiers of the Royal African Corps were sent to the Cape until being disbanded in 1821.

## Colonial Collectables

There is little doubt that the Napoleonic Wars had a significant and long-lasting impact on Europe, but they also had a lasting effect on shaping the future of countries such as Egypt, South Africa, India, Haiti and many others. The ultimate sacrifice was made by European regular soldiers and locally raised militia alike in steamy jungles, lush sugar plantations, waterless deserts, arid Mediterranean islands and watery rice paddy fields. While I still avidly collect the more usual Napoleonic figures on offer from toy soldier manufacturers depicting iconic European campaigns, I always keep half an eye out for the more unusual colonial figures that occasionally come into view. They certainly provide interesting bookends to the Napoleonic toy soldier collection displayed on my shelves.



**'Royal African Corps, Africa, 1808' (ref. 110) from Beau Geste.**

## ABOUT THE WRITER

Like many collectors, Gary Emery played with plastic toy soldiers from the likes of Airfix and W. Britain while growing up in rural Devon, UK, in the 1970s. He became hooked again after seeing an advert for a Del Prado figure in 2001. Through the ensuing years, Gary has amassed

a collection of more than 12,000 metal figures covering most eras of history. His work as a senior government auditor has taken him around the world with stints encompassing England, Wales, Australia and Samoa.



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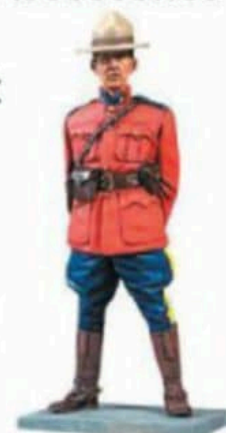
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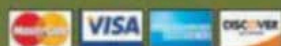
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# Britain and Toy Soldiers Go to War



Elsewhere in this edition, expert James Opie's latest instalment of his fascinating and informative 'Talking Toy Soldiers' regular feature is titled 'Britain Goes to War.' He marks the 110th anniversary of the beginning of World War I by marching out a wide-ranging salute to various makers' combatants in peak caps rather than the steel helmets adopted later on.

The global conflict between the Allies and the Central Powers erupted on 28 July 1914. It was characterised

by trench warfare and the use of chemical warfare, aeroplanes, machine guns and artillery. By the time the war ended with an Allied victory on 11 November 1918, it claimed an estimated nine million military dead and 23 million wounded, plus as many as eight million civilian deaths.

Shown here is a closer look at James's recreation of a British field dressing station somewhere along the Western Front. He spotlights the

Reka best quality stretcher bearers at centre, one of whom is holding a folded stretcher upright and is considered to be a very rare figure.

Due to World War I's unprecedented scale, loss of lives and vast destruction, contemporary Europeans described it as 'the war to end all wars.' Sadly, they would be proven wrong in 1939 and beyond.

—Stuart A. Hessney



# Britains Plastic Mountie Mystery



**Kent Welch** investigates a circa 1975 RCMP set and whether it is an Eyes Right range release or an unknown Deetail set, and why the figures are so rare.

Text and Photos: Kent Welch

It is a mystery like something right out of the Great White North! It's an enigma that few collectors even realise exists.

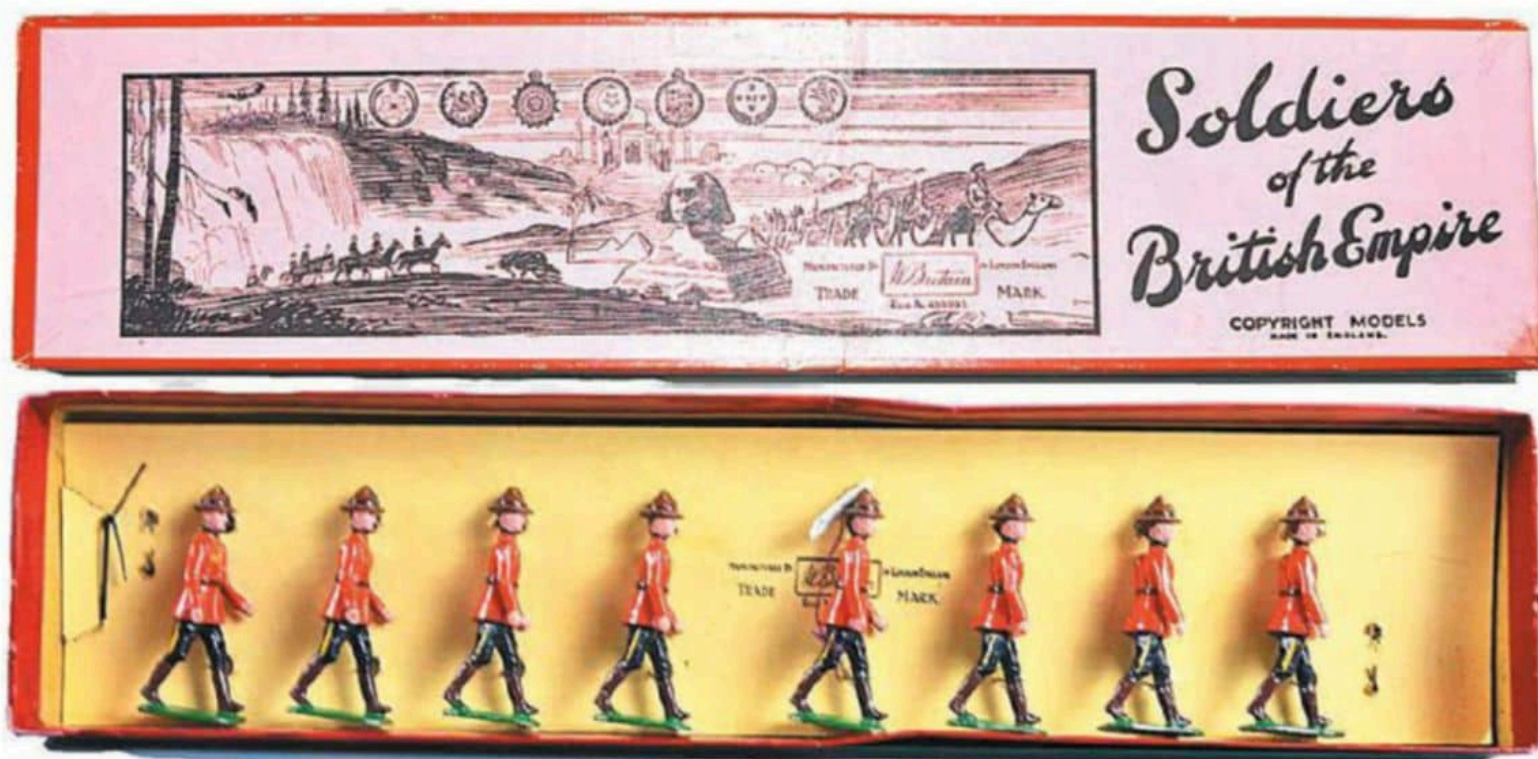
If someone, even a collector well-versed in Britains Ltd. plastic figures, sees a vintage boxed set of Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) figures, a hobbyist would likely assume they are part of the Eyes Right range of 1/32-scale painted plastic figures on plastic bases. It's a fun boxed set that was produced by Britains for several years.



**Eyes Right plastic Mounties on plastic bases.**

But if a collector is very lucky and quite observant, they might realise that some plastic Mounties are completely different figures that are most shockingly on Deetail-style metal stands! So, are they an Eyes Right set or a Deetail set? Why were so few made, why are they so rare and why are they so unknown to today's collectors?

I've gathered the evidence, have the photos, consulted experts, made my deduction and will let readers find the solution to this mystery for yourselves.



**Old Britains metal Set 1554: 'Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Regulation Summer Dress.'**

## History Behind RCMP Mystery

Let's start at the beginning. Hollow-cast metal Mounties sold singly or in sets were a part of the long history of UK-based Britains for many years. Examples include Set 1554: 'Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Regulation Summer Dress' marching on foot and modelled in Stetson

hats, red tunics, yellow whistle lanyards, dark blue trousers with yellow stripes and boots. Figures riding either black or brown horses came in Set 1349: 'Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Regulation Summer Dress, with Officer.'

As Britains moved into plastic production, RCMP figures a natural choice

to be added to its lineup. In 1962, a mounted figure joined the plastic Eyes Right lineup. A marching Mountie was added in 1966. Ways they were marketed included the large display Set 7695: 'R.C.M.P.'

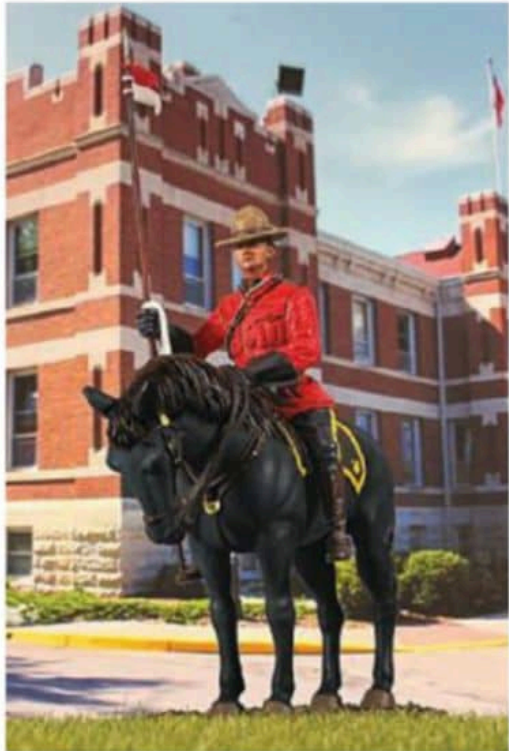
Mounties were such a popular subject that Britains went on to produce some as part of its 'New Metal' range.



**Pre-1975 Britains Eyes Right plastic display Set 7695: 'R.C.M.P.' in its battered original box. (Courtesy of Stuart A. Hessney)**



In fact, today's US-based W. Britain Model Figures is still making matt-painted metal constables on foot and mounted as part of its high-end 'Museum Collection' with the most recent release being the 'Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Male Trooper on Horseback' (ref. 10174)



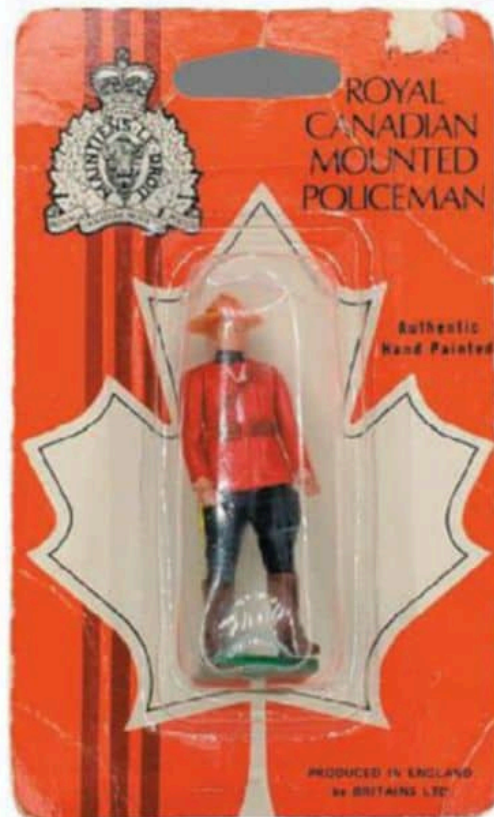
**Brand new painted metal 'Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Male Trooper on Horseback' (ref. 10174) by W. Britain Model Figures.**

Getting back to our mystery, Eyes Right was the third range of Britains plastics following its successful Herald and Swoppet lines. Eyes Right sets were mainly focused on ceremonial figures and the rest of the range was marketed as 'Regimental Models.' Although those were plastic, they were throwbacks reminiscent of the traditional-style metal figures that had made Britains a dominant brand in the toy soldier market.

Eyes Right figures were made up of multiple PVC parts. For example, the marching Mounties have seven parts including two legs, the torso, the head, two arms, a hat and the plastic base. The base has two thin pegs that go into holes in the bottom of the figure's feet to enable them to stand. All these different pieces made production of the Eyes Right Mounties labour intensive.

They were available at the same outlets as the rest of the Britains line but were strongly aimed at the Canadian market where tourists and proud locals would buy them. The bigger sets were made up of both marching and mounted figures.

Real members of the RCMP became iconic due to their bright 'red serge' tunics, blue breeches with yellow stripes and distinctive Stetson hats. At the time, some Mounties wore this uniform for both daily use and ceremonial occasions. This meant toy figure buyers



**Britains plastic Mountie licensed to Lesney and sold singly.**

could use them to recreate either type of scenario.

Britains launched its fourth plastic range of figures dubbed Deetail in 1971. They were made of PVC plastic and mostly abandoned the previous multiple parts approach. They consisted of a main body, occasionally a separately produced arm and around five added paint colours. The most important Deetail figures feature was that they came on metal stands. Each figure was attached to its stand via tabs under its feet. This stability measure was the number one marketing point for these figures and it was proudly proclaimed in Britains' advertisements.

The Deetail line was a huge success and it quickly dominated Britains' plastic output. The classic Deetail sets were introduced from 1971 through 1978 and consisted of twenty themed sets. They were based on the tenet that there were always two sides released in miniature for every conflict, thereby increasing their playability and giving kids an incentive to buy more. Only one official Deetail release Set 7250: 'Scots Guards' in ceremonial dress, which was aimed at the London tourist trade, did not adhere to the maker's basic principle by being supplied with opposition.

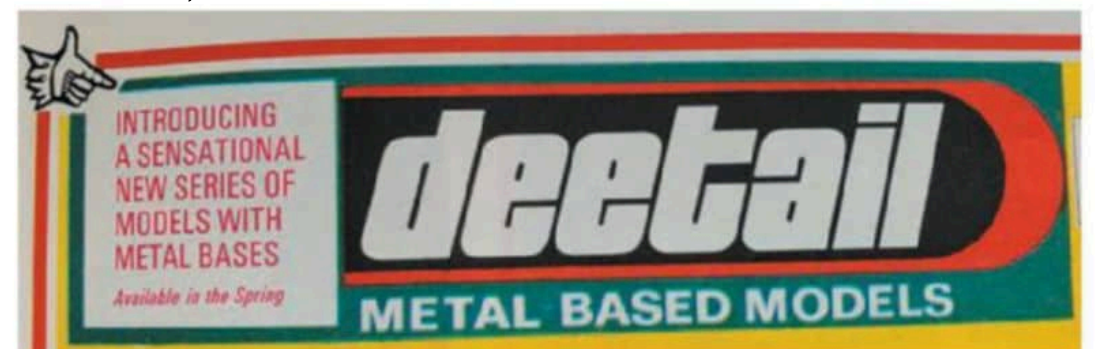
## Challenging the Accepted!

As more Deetail sets came out, the earlier Herald, Swoppet and Eyes Right plastic lines were slowly eliminated. Sadly, the Eyes Right RCMP figures made their last appearance in the Britains catalogue in 1975. It appears that after that point the RCMP were just another Eyes Right set forced into retirement by the metal-based Deetail line, but that is not the reality. Although 1975 was the last year of the RCMP set, the established

There were other curious circumstances surrounding these new figures. They were made of PVC plastic and were more brightly coloured than the previous Eyes Right versions. Also, the new variants more rounded and better proportioned than the prior RCMP figures. Most shocking of all, the 1975 marching Mounties had tabs on the bottom of their feet and were on metal stands! Is this then not an Eyes Right set but really a 'lost' Deetail set?

That is a serious question for collectors. Deetail fans might want to add this set to complete their collections. Eyes Right collectors will want to know that there is a variation to find. Collectors of Mounties in general might be intrigued by learning the existence of those figures.

To establish what product line the '75 Mounties' belong to, I'll break down the facts by five key areas: labelling, packaging, the stand, the mould and the catalogue. Then I will examine why this set is so rare and why so few collectors seem to even know of its existence. Finally, like all good mysteries, our subject's classification will be revealed as either Eyes Right or Deetail.



**The first catalogue appearance of Deetail plastic figures touts their metal stands.**

Eyes Right version was not the only one available.

In fact, Britains also released a completely new RCMP boxed set in 1975 that I refer to as the '75 Mounties.' It featured all new figures of constables on horseback and marching. Only the horse was previously used in other Britains plastic sets, but not with the Mounties before.

## Label Clues

Perhaps this is not really a mystery. There is a fair argument to be made that the '75 Mounties' is still an Eyes Right set because there is some good information on the box containing the large twelve-figure set. The strongest argument is a label on the right end of the box that reads 'Eyes Right Models', 'Set 7695: 'R.C.M.P.'',





**An inaugural Deetail plastic US Army infantryman on a metal base is shown with an Eyes Right Mountie for comparison.**

Made in England' all the same as before. If this is accepted at face value, it seems that these figures are part of the Eyes Right range as labelled.

figures as being part of the Deetail range. They are mislabelled just like the '75 Mounties'. Labelling figures as being 'Eyes Right' doesn't necessarily mean that's what they are.

## Packaging Evidence

It is true that the '75 Mounties' set does not appear in packaging specific to Deetail. In 1973, Britains had moved the large Eyes Right RCMP display set to a style of packaging that collectors call the 'Trees.' The

Britains even used it for its plastic animals. The '75 Mounties' set's inner plastic tray is different than the Deetail sets and it comes in 'Trees' packaging. However, the overall packaging is not a clear indication whether those Mounties are Eyes Right or Deetail figures.

## People of Interest

Now let's focus on the little people of interest themselves. Like the other Eyes Right figures, the earlier RCMP version was made of polythene. In contrast, the

right. In contrast, the '75 Mounties' were a single piece of plastic (plus the hat and metal stand) and have no ability to move anything like Deetail figures.

Like Deetail figures, the '75 Mounties' are more natural body sculptures than the Eyes Right versions. The sculptor is unknown. They are also made of brighter red plastic, again like Deetail figures.

If these Mounties were considered to be Deetail figures, they would join the Scots Guard as the only Deetail figures in ceremonial dress rather than field uniforms. As already noted, however the real Mounties wore this uniform for both ceremonial occasions and in the field.

Another factor that makes these figures unusual is that I have only seen them sold in the big twelve-figure boxed set. Unlike the Eyes Right versions, I have never seen them packaged in counterpacks, smaller boxed sets or packaged as a single figure.

Though the '75 Mounties' were not paired with foes like most other Deetail sets at the time, they still might be qualified as being Deetail figures because the tourist trade Scots Guards didn't have opposition too.

## The Prime Suspect

Focusing on the main point of contention, the metal base definitely points these figures to one



**RCMP 8) An Eyes Right RCMP display set in its 1970 packaging. (Courtesy of Dr Flock/eBay)**

However, Britains always had a clear focus on sales, not careful tracking of releases. Set naming could be set aside for convenience or even mishandled. There are many instances of incorrect labelling.

In fact, there is another set that proves the Britains labelling doesn't always determine classification. In 1986, the maker released boxed Set 7153: 'Farm Family'. Being a farm set, it had great revenue potential. It contained seven of the brand's popular plastic farm figures. However, on the box in large letters it plainly says 'Deetail Metal Based Models,' but the figures are entirely plastic including their bases.

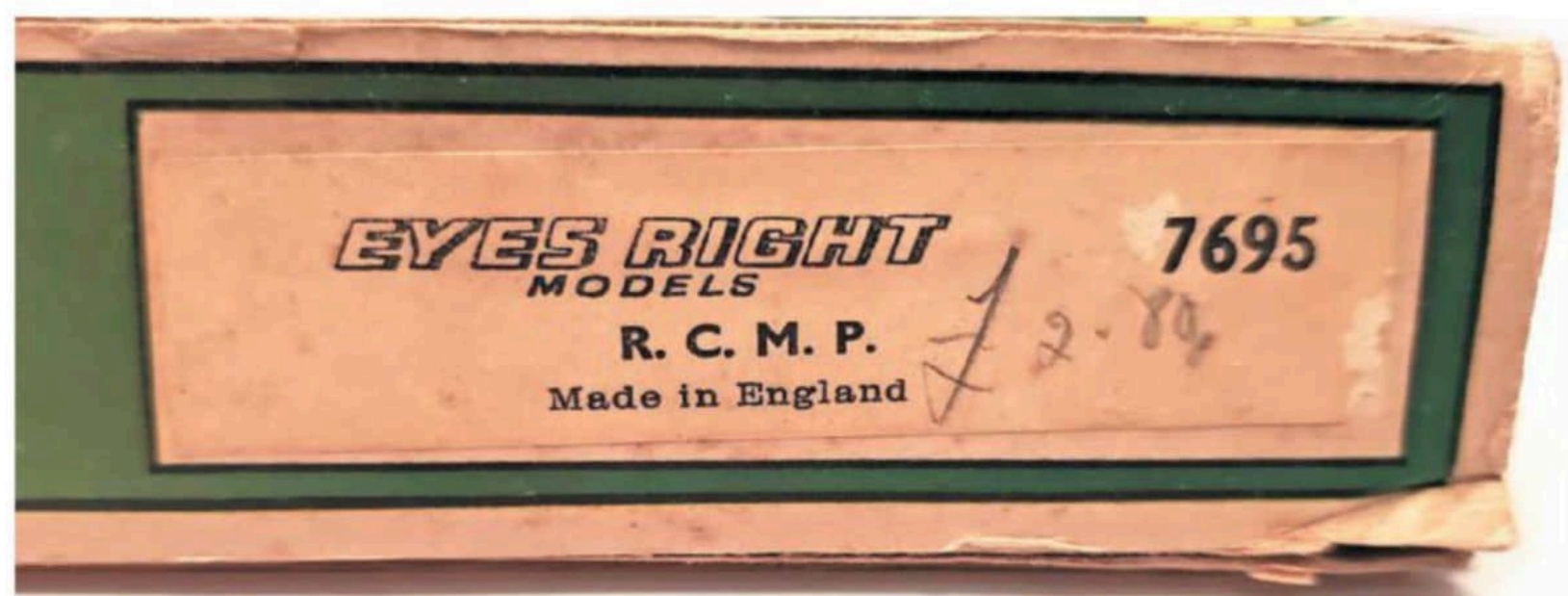
Despite the label and this box being in use for several years, no Deetail collector would accept those farm

same style was used for the '75 Mounties' box, however, packaging is not really a definitive argument for classifying Britains products either.

The 'Trees' packaging was used for many years for both Deetail and Eyes Right sets. In fact, the 'Trees' style was used longer than almost any other packaging.

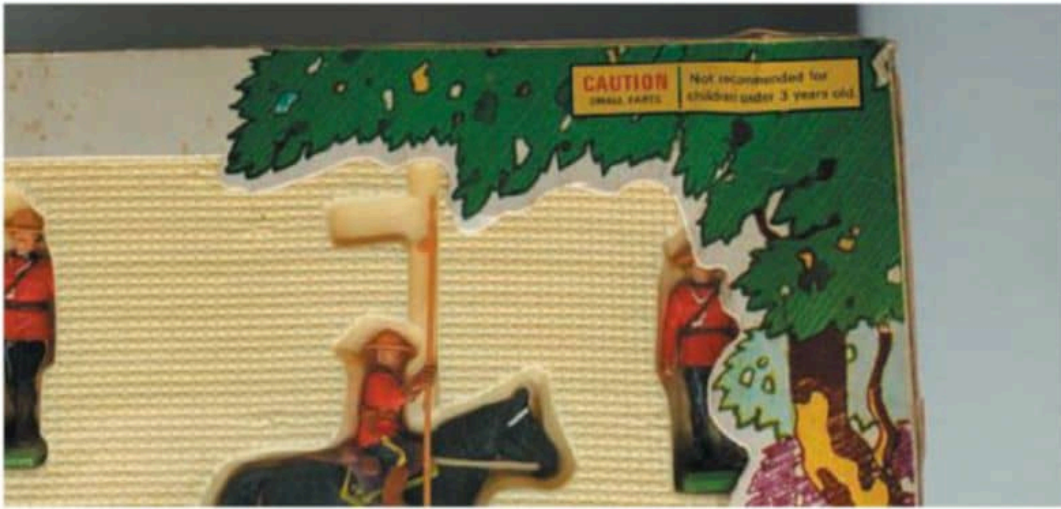
'75 Mounties' were made of PVC just like Deetail figures. The sculpted figures accurately reflect the RCMP in ceremonial dress.

The earlier Eyes Right figures were multiple pieces of plastic that enabled the buyer to move their arms and turn their heads. You could literally make the figures' eyes look to the



**The label on the side of the 1975 RCMP boxed set identifies it as being an Eyes Right set.**





The Britains 'Trees' design appears on the '75 Mounties' boxed set.

classification over the other. As part of their mould the '75 Mounties' figures have plastic tabs on the bottom of their feet enabling them

Additionally, their stand is painted in a darker shade of green than other marching Deetail figures on similar stands.

Or were they a late addition to the line and it was too late for the new figures image to be used? Or was using the old picture just a mistake? Why didn't Britains include the '75 Mounties' in the catalogue? Additionally, why didn't the manufacturer highlight them as an all-new set as it would usually do?

## Unknown & Discontinued

Our last area to cover in this Mountie mystery is

addressing why they were available for such a short time and how it is that most Eyes Right or Deetail collectors don't know about the nature of this set.

Many present-day Deetail toy soldier fans were children during the 1970s and 1980s and now they want to complete their nostalgic collections. Because those adults are passionate about their hobby, these former toys are a collectable and valuable commodity. The Deetail sets are studied, listed and coveted. So why aren't the '75 Mounties' a prized set?

Author Peter Cole includes them in his landmark book *Suspended Animation: An Unauthorised History of Herald and Britains Plastic Figures* (2004). He notes that they were new and replaced the earlier Eyes Right versions, but they are not listed as being on metal stands or unique, so they are easily missed by collectors.



The 'Trees' style of packaging appears on both a 1974 boxed set of Deetail World War II Japanese infantry and the '75 Mounties' set.

to be attached to their metal stands through two holes. According to Britains' own terminology, Deetail figures are plastic figures on metal bases. The '75 Mounties' fit that definition.

Also, this type of metal stand matches the way Britains did them for two later Deetail marching figures: a World War II German infantryman and a Scots Guard both released in 1977. Those figures have metal bases that are different than other Deetail figures. Their base is shorter to allow a more natural spacing of feet for a figure on the march.

The base of the '75 Mounties' nearly matches those examples, but it has slightly different edges and it is a bit narrower. Also, their stand does not say 'Deetail' on the bottom like other figures in the range.

## Catalogue Evidence

Collectors often use old catalogues as important references. They are not perfect sources, but they are consistently a great guide. The Mounties do appear in the 1975 catalogue, but Britains used the picture of the previous Eyes Right versions, not the new 1975 versions.

The '75 Mounties' with metal bases never appeared in any Britains catalogue. Also, that variant is the only set that doesn't appear alongside the other Deetail sets in the catalogue.

Why don't they appear in the catalogue? Is it because the new version was primarily aimed at the Canadian market, with a small release in the UK market, whereas the Eyes Right version was aimed at the world market that received the full catalogue?



Plastic figures from the '75 Mounties' set have metal bases.



Pairs of Deetail '75 Mounties' on metal bases and all-plastic Eyes Right versions are shown from the left.



Also, as already discussed, they are not shown in the catalogue and that is perhaps the key to this mystery. Collectors might not have seen these figures as children, so they are not looking for them now as adults. Enthusiasts not realising the unique nature of the '75 Mounties' might be why they failed to catch on originally and they are so rare now.

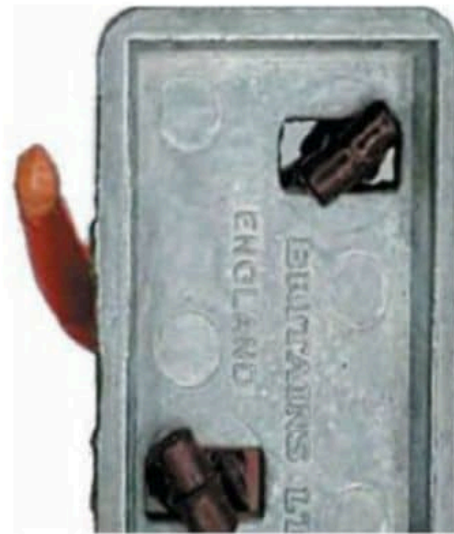
Any toy soldier maker will tell you the most expensive element is production costs particularly making moulds. Ideally, if you invest in new moulds, you want to make a lot of figures from them. This was a guiding factor at Britains. If the '75



**Eyes Right Mounties demonstrate their ability to actually turn their heads to the right.**

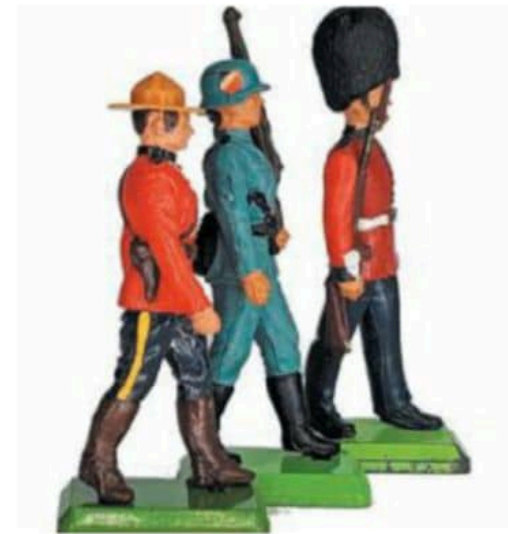
Mounties' weren't shown in the catalogue nor noted as being new and different, retailers would not have known to order them.

A lack of sales could quickly doom a set. If figures were not widely ordered, few were made and they



**An example of the metal base used for the 1975 Mounties.**

were not available to buyers. The catalogue omission might be why they were a failure and quickly dropped. Why else would Britains spend the money to create new moulds and then stop producing the figures after one year?



**A '75 Mountie,' World War II German soldier and ceremonial Scots Guard all have Deetail-style metal stands.**

I spoke to Peter, who was an employee at Britains and has written extensively about its plastic production. Commenting on why these figures were so poorly launched and only available one year, he said, "At a time when Britains was being run

**The 1975 version of the RCMP set in question.**







The 1975 catalogue shows the Eyes Right version of the RCMP figures but in a Deetail-style 'Trees' box.

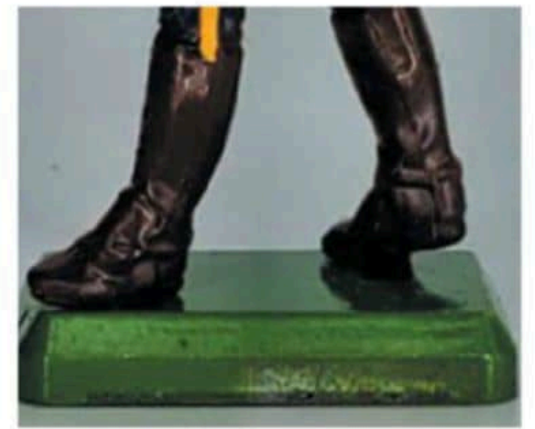
relatively coherently and efficiently, I think we must just put this down to an anomalously un-joined-up bit of strategy."

Another hurdle to their success must have been that there is no sign that they were made in smaller sets or sold singly. They

seem to only have come in the large twelve-piece set. It was a prohibitively expensive set when new, so relatively few people would have spent the money on it.

There's another possible reason why the figures were discontinued. If a collector

obtains an old set of '75 Mounties' now, the paint on the legs might be sticky. This is a sign that the paint Britains used on the legs is not ideal for adherence to the plastic and would be seen as a defect. Could that be the reason that they were pulled so quickly?



Did a cosmetic issue involving sticky paint on the metal bases trigger ending the '75 Mounties' production?

I have actually seen a second set of them. Interestingly its Mounties' pants are a different shade of blue and not sticky. Did Britains try to fix this paint issue and then give up on the set? We may never know.

### How Rare?

How rare is the '75 Mounties' set? It's hard to say. I spoke to several dedicated Britains plastic collectors and all of them agreed they are quite rare. I have only ever seen three of the boxed sets. One was a prized part of another collector's huge plastic army. Another collector only had two loose figures.

One veteran collector observed, "I would say that among the Deetail sets, it's the second rarest set behind 'the grail,' the 1978 Super Deetail British paratroopers that were quickly withdrawn. However, these Mounties come up far less often. When they do, the Mounties are available at lower prices, but that might be due to lack of knowledge by the collectors as to what they are and that they even exist as Deetail figures. They are confused with the Eyes Right versions."

Another major collector agreed saying, "You just never see them."

### How to ID Them

It is hard to spot this set compared to Eyes Right version. Personally, I only got my own boxed set because I had learned







**The Mounties' horses are the simplest keys to which variant is which. The 1975 version that stands on its legs and the Eyes Right version on a plastic base are shown from the left.**

that they existed and was watching for them. When I investigated a set that was part of an auction, I realised what they were and won the lot.

This brings us to another reason why this 1975 set is largely unknown. Since its 'Trees' packaging is the same as an earlier version, it can be hard to spot. When seen in photos, the difference between the regular Eyes Right RCMP set and the '75 Mounties' version is minimal. Even the metal stand is hard to spot. The key is the mounted figure's horse. The Eyes Right version of the horse is on a green plastic base. The 1975 version's horse doesn't have a base.

### **The Reveal!**

For all the reasons above, the 1975 version of Set 7695: 'R.C.M.P.' might be the greatest enigma of all the Britains' plastic sets. After reviewing all the evidence, I think the '75 Mounties' are Deetail figures, not Eyes Right. Despite how they are labelled on their box, it comes down to a key fact: they are plastic figures made with plastic tabs that go into metal stands, the very definition of a Deetail figure.

Of course, any collector can decide for themselves whether it is an Eyes Right or Deetail set. If you collect Deetail figures

and think the '75 Mounties' is a Deetail set, now you have a rare set to track down.

Regardless of how you think they should be classified;

these Mounties form a great set that is hard to find and deserving of a spot on your shelf.



**A pair of 1975 Mounties fits in perfectly with various Deetail figures.**



**An example of the famously flawed Super Deetail British paratroopers is flanked by one of the '75 Mounties.'**

### **ABOUT THE WRITER**

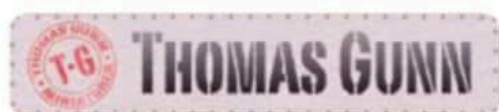
**Kent Welch** is a long-time Britain's Deetail plastic figures collector and reviews 'Fantastic Plastics' new releases for *TSC&HF*. The American works in marketing and lives in Tampa, Florida, with his wife Julie and their dog Roxy. Kent is one of the Collector Guys with multiple platforms devoted to collecting, collectors and their collections. Readers can check them out at [Collectorguys.com](http://Collectorguys.com), TikTok, Instagram and on YouTube under 'Collector Guys'. Anyone who knows anything about this 1975 Britains plastic RCMP set can email Kent at [deetailcollector@gmail.com](mailto:deetailcollector@gmail.com).





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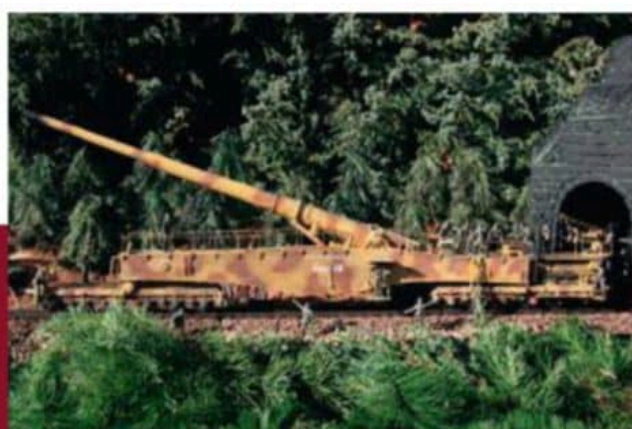
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# OMSS On Parade Show

**Scott J. Dummitt** covers the Canadian club's annual show and competition at its new venue in Toronto.

Text: Scott J. Dummitt    Photos: Various Contributors

Canada's Ontario Model Soldier Society (OMSS) staged its annual On Parade show and competition on Saturday, 15 June, during a sunny spring day at its new venue: the Franklin Horner Community Centre in Greater Toronto's suburban Etobicoke

## New Venue, Chairman

The show had been held the past few years at the local Royal Canadian Legion branch in Etobicoke, but with things slowly returning to normal after the coronavirus pandemic the society found a larger new venue. The community centre is a former public school that features two small gymnasiums, a large lecture room, a readymade snack bar and ample parking. It also is accessible for the handicapped.

In addition, the OMSS had a new show chairman for 2024 as past President Jim Qualtrough picked up the reins from me to cap my five-year tenure in the post. I helped Jim in his new role. Also, many club members who have helped in the past stepped up once again.

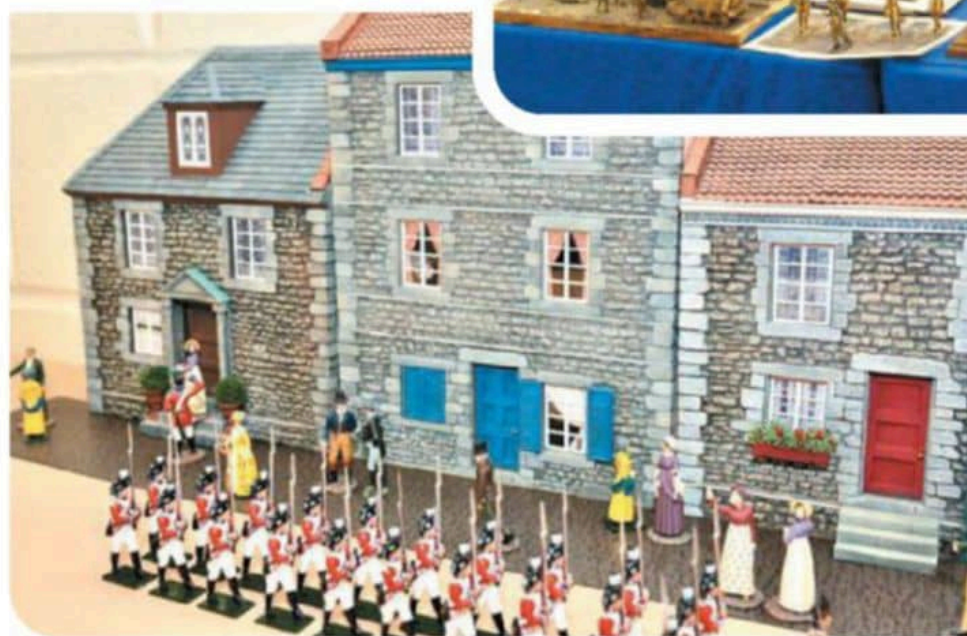
Our club advertised the show in *Toy Soldier Collector & Historical Figures* magazine, promoted the event locally in social media and issued hundreds of flyers. The 2024 edition of the event took place on the day before Father's Day.

## W. Britain's Osens

Once again Ken and Ericka Osen of US-based W. Britain Model Figures made the trip from their headquarters in Ohio to Canada to support the club. In turn the OMSS provided Britains with a separate room where they could display their latest releases and deliver two lectures to attendees.

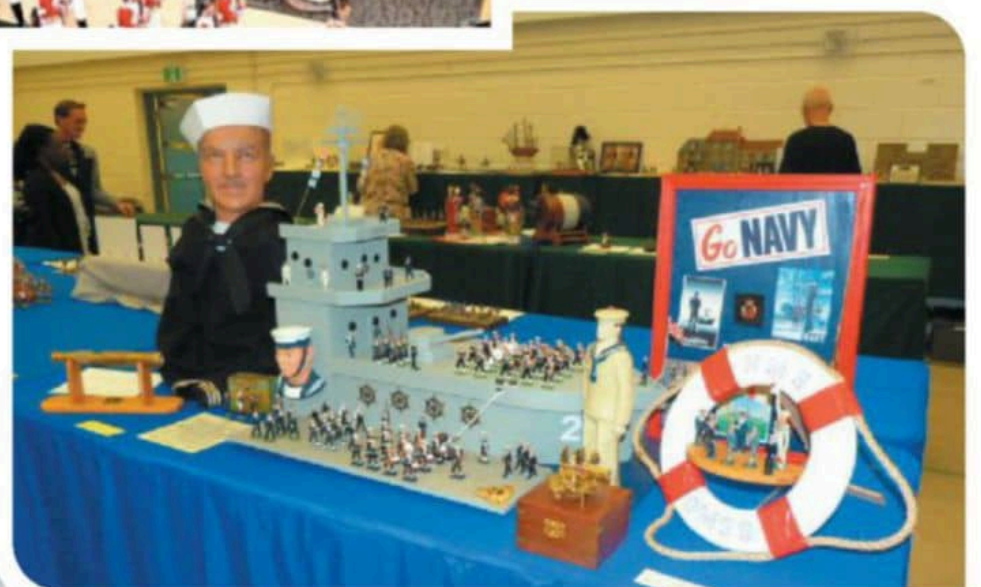
In addition the Osens provided the club with blank figures for the children's 'Paint Your Own Toy Soldier' table overseen by Jim's wife Cindy and Barb Millburn, the wife of past President Scott Millburn.

John Tatham sets up his competition entries.



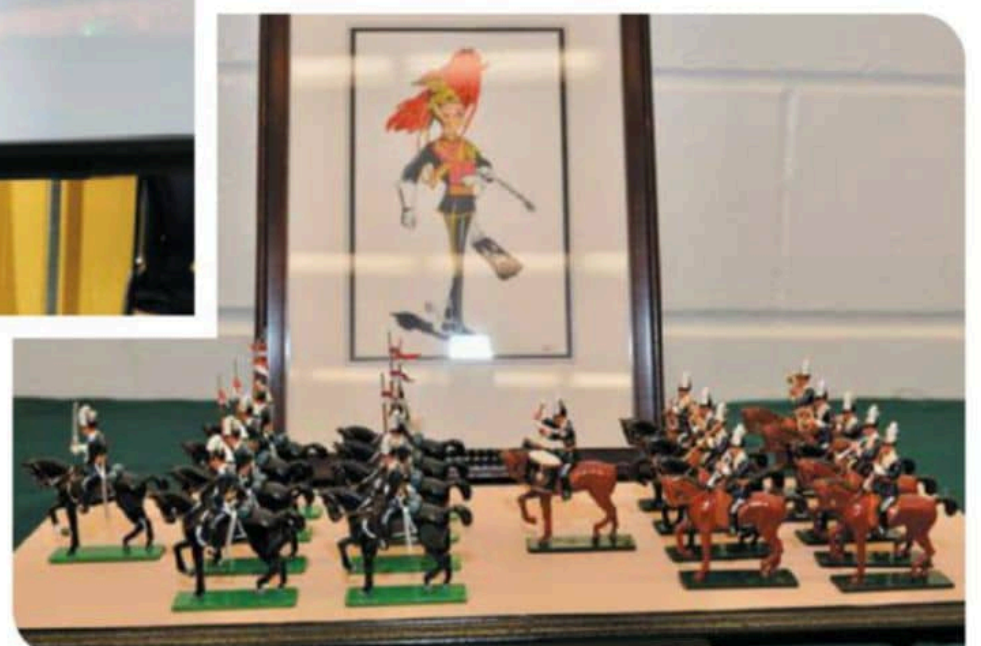
Display of British Coldstream Guards on parade circa 1792 created by Eric Shaw.

John Hambly's naval salute.



W. Britain's Ken Osen delivers a talk during the event.

Display of British 17th Lancers by William Wyatt.





## Traders' Room

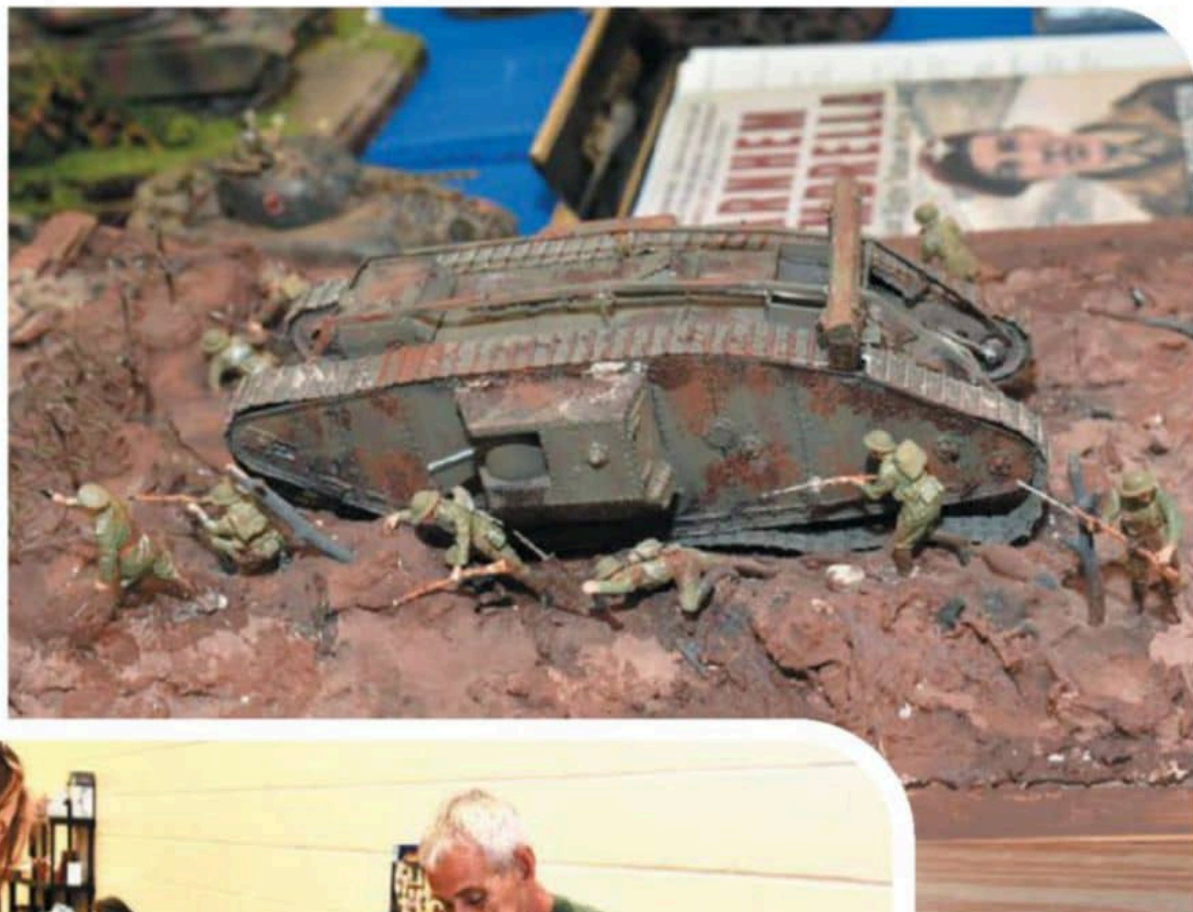
The show opened at 09:00 and the traders' room soon filled with eager collectors looking for that special set or figure. With more than 44 dealer tables this year, there was plenty to peruse.

Scott J. Dummitt Presents, my own toy soldier and model figure business, was one of the largest dealers at the event. I featured the latest products from W. Britain, John Jenkins Designs, Thomas Gunn Miniatures, Tradition of London Ltd. and The British Toy Soldier Company.

Other notable traders included Bob Thompson and Steve Alexander from Ottawa and David Tansley, son of the late Ed Tansley, who had been a fixture at our show. Sadly, Ed passed away just a few short months before the show that he had supported for so many years.

The show also saw the return of the Hamilton Tabletop Gaming Society, whose members kept a game going for most of the day on the stage in the display/competition room.

**The 'Battle of Courcellette 1916' by John Tatham was the show attendees' choice for top honours.**



**Trader Kirk Thompson chats with customers.**

**Part of Juan Lopez's award-winning 'War Movies & Ace Tributes' display.**



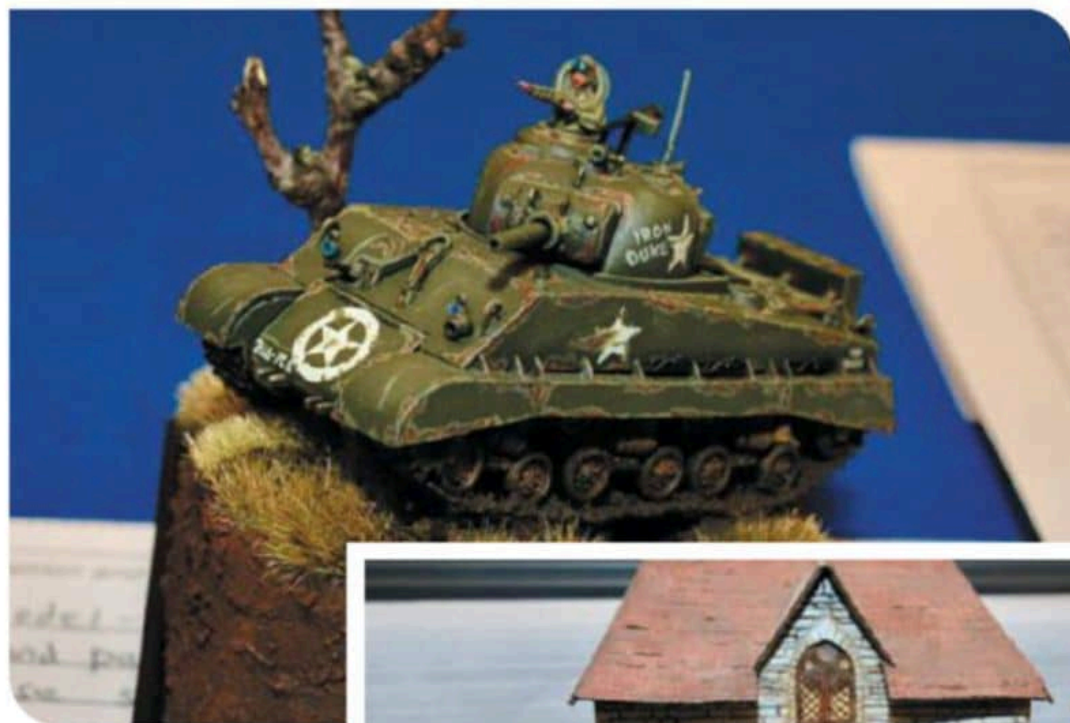
**World War II 'Fishing Time' diorama by Michael Pavlovec.**



**On Parade Chairman Jim Qualtrough talks with a customer.**







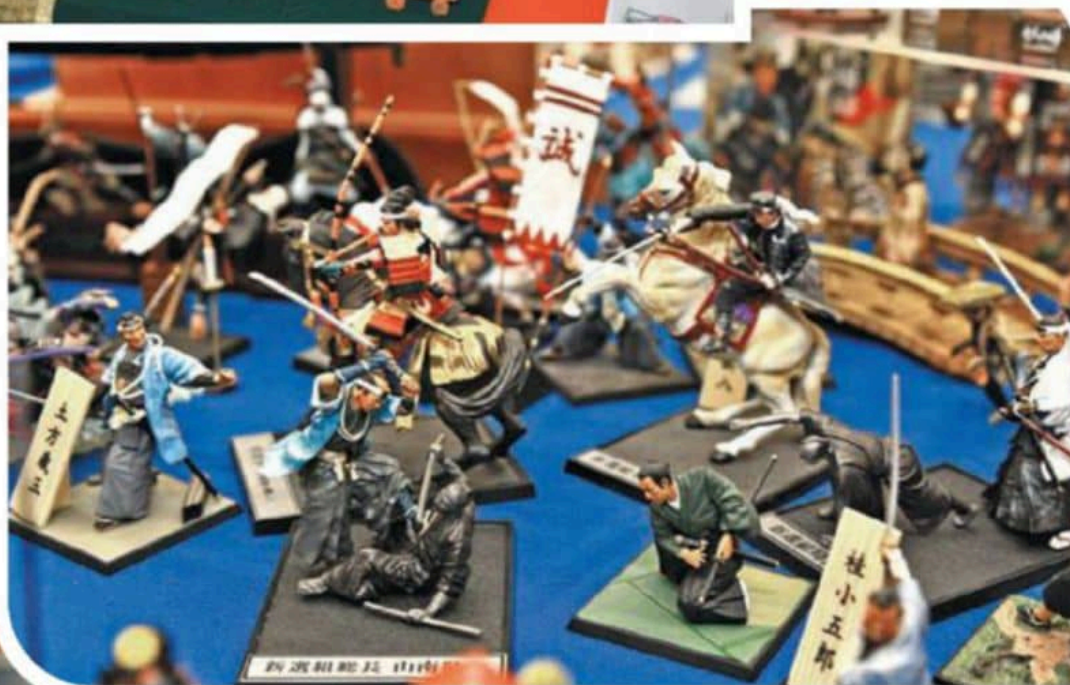
**World War II 'Fishing Time' diorama by Michael Pavlovec.**



**Flats are showcased in a 'Jeanne D'Arc' diorama made by Tom Adler and owned by Gary Lenius, who displayed it at the show.**



**A wide variety of items were available from trader Steve Alexander.**



**An Asian display by Grant Lawson includes Japanese samurai warriors.**



**Display of Napoleonic ceramics by Stanley Kershman.**

## Competition Entries

This year we had a new group of competition judges made up of head judge Keith Ritchie along with Tom Wright of the Ottawa Chapter and Bryan Patterson of the Toronto Chapter.

The display/competition room drew 49 entries ranging from single figures to huge displays such as Ottawa enthusiast Juan Lopez's 1/6th-scale 'War Movies & Ace Tributes,' Stanley Kershman's Napoleonic ceramics, John Tatham's dioramas, John Hambly's tribute to the world's navies and more. The wide variety of pieces included everything from 28mm to 1/6th-scale figures as well as military hardware.

Top awards went to the World War I 'Battle of Courcellette 1916' by John Tatham as voted by the show attendees while Lopez's 'War Movies & Ace Tributes' display was chosen by the judges.

The show concluded at 15:00 with the official awards presentation. Participants were pleased with the new location and we hope to hold our show there for many years to come.

For more information about the OMSS, please visit our new website at [www.omss.ca](http://www.omss.ca) or our Facebook page.

## ABOUT THE WRITER

**Scott J. Dummitt** retired from the Royal Canadian Navy after 25 years of service. He is an avid collector of action figures and toy soldiers. He is also the proprietor of the Scott J. Dummitt Presents shop in Bailieboro, Ontario, which sells items such as 1/6th-scale action figures, publications, vehicles, aircraft and toy soldiers by various makers. The latter includes his own Pride of the Nation range of 54mm figures depicting Canadian units. Scott is a past president of the Ontario Model Soldier Society and formerly served as the On Parade event chairman. **Scott, John Hambly, Neil McGavock and Andy Traverse** shot the photos illustrating this report.



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# Fairy Tales And Nursery Rhymes

**Bill Schneider** shares how he creates whimsical vignettes inspired by enchanting childhood fairy tales and nursery rhymes.

Text and Photos: William Schneider

Many years ago, I was browsing the tables at a US toy soldier show in Chester, Pennsylvania, when I encountered a vendor selling metal fairy tale and nursery rhyme figures. I immediately thought of my grandchildren and how it might be fun to paint some for them. I purchased figures of 'Little Red Riding Hood' and the 'Big Bad Wolf,' 'Little Boy Blue' and 'The Three Little Pigs' with another example of the same wolf. Once I began working on them, I realised that it would be more interesting to put these figures in some context, so I decided to make small dioramas for each vignette.



The original Marx plastic 'Fairy Tale Figures' set.

## Marx Plastic Roots

In hindsight, I wished I had purchased more figures. When I mentioned it to a fellow collector, he informed me that US-based Louis Marx & Company had made a series of them. I tracked down information and photographs of the set titled 'Fairy Tale Figures.' It contained 26 plastic figures representing fourteen fairy tales and nursery rhymes. Despite the title that Marx gave the set, eight of the figures compose only three fairy tales. The remaining sixteen figures represent eleven nursery rhymes.

I began searching eBay and other online sites to obtain all those plastic figures. Then I asked another toy soldier hobby friend to create moulds and cast them in metal for me. I have never learned the origin of my original



'Three Little Kittens,' 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' and 'Mary Had a Little Lamb.'

'Three Little Pigs' figures.

I eventually completed all of the vignettes that I originally planned. Then I realised that I could make more with only a few specialised figures. My 25 completed dioramas represent six fairy tales and nineteen nursery rhymes.

Each diorama is composed of solid metal castings or older hollow-cast figures. The bases and structures for each vignette were

academics who spent years collecting old folktales, creating stories from them and publishing collections of them. Though the brothers were German, most of their stories originated in other European countries.

For example, my dioramas include depictions of 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' and the 'Three Little Pigs,' tales that both have English roots. 'Little Red Riding Hood' has early



'Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary.'

custom-made from wood. Apoxie Sculpt, which has a putty-like consistency, was used to fashion certain larger and smaller items.

## Folktales Origins

Fairy tales and nursery rhymes have a long, interesting and often controversial history. Most of them are associated with the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, but many of the folktales that inspired them originated much earlier.

The Brothers Grimm, Jacob (1785-1863) and Wilhelm (1786-1859), were



'Baa, Baa, Black Sheep.'

European origins, while 'Hansel and Gretel' sprang from German folklore.

The Brothers Grimm also published 'Snow White' and 'Jack and the





**'Old Mother Hubbard.'**

Beanstalk.' Their books were quite popular in the nineteenth century. Of the nineteen nursery rhymes I recreated in miniature, all but one had an English origin as 'Mary Had a Little Lamb' comes from America.

became known 'Bloody Mary' among her Protestant critics. 'How does your garden grow?' might refer either to her lack of heirs or to the prevalent idea that England had become a Catholic vassal of Spain when she married King

Philip II in 1554. 'Quite contrary' might be a reference to her unsuccessful attempt to reverse ecclesiastical changes made by her father, Henry VIII, and her brother, Edward VI.

Another interpretation suggests that it is a religious allegory with Mary being the mother of Jesus, the 'silver bells' represent Sanctus bells rung during the eucharist, the 'cockle shells' signify badges worn by pilgrims going to the shrine of Saint James in Spain, and the 'little maids' are allusions to either the queen's miscarriages, her executions of Protestants, or nuns.

Yet another interpretation links the nursery rhyme to Mary, Queen of Scots, also a Catholic (1542-1587). This theory asserts that 'how does your garden grow' refers to her reign, the 'silver bells' are Catholic cathedral bells, 'cockle shells' insinuates that her second husband, Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley, was unfaithful, and the 'pretty maids all in a row' are her ladies in waiting known as 'The Four Marys.'

The earliest printed version of the English nurse rhyme 'Baa, Baa, Black Sheep' dates to around 1744 and it goes:

*Baa, baa, black sheep  
Have you any wool?  
Yes sir, yes sir,  
Three bags full;  
One for my master,  
And one for the dame,  
And one for the little boy  
Who lives down the lane.*

It has been suggested that this sarcastically refers to a wool tax imposed in the thirteenth century by



**'Jack and the Beanstalk', 'Little Boy Blue' and 'Humpty Dumpty.'**

## Rhymes, History Links

Historical connections have been surmised for some fairy tales and nursery rhymes. Examples include the following English nursery rhyme:

*Mary, Mary, quite contrary,  
How does your garden grow?  
With silver bells and cockle shells,  
And pretty maids all in a row.*

The earliest known version of the above nursery rhyme was published in 1744. There are multiple interpretations of what it refers to.

One theory identifies the subject as being the Catholic Queen Mary I of England and Ireland (1516-1558), who



**'Rub-a-Dub-Dub.'**





**'The Three Little Pigs.'**

## Fairy Tale Morality

Virtually all nursery rhymes and fairy tales include a moral to be learned. For example, 'The Three Little Pigs,' an English folktale first published in the 1800s, illustrates how hard work

King Edward I. Under the new rules, a third of the cost of a sack of wool went to the crown, another to the church and the last portion to the farmer.

The exact origin of the English nursery rhyme 'Old Mother Hubbard' is disputed, but a version by Sarah Catherine Martin and first published in 1805. The best remembered part of the poem goes:

*Old Mother Hubbard  
Went to the Cupboard,  
To get her poor Dog a bone;  
When she got there,  
The cupboard was bare,  
And so, the poor Dog had none.*

Some analysts have purported that the above refers to Cardinal Thomas Woolsey and his failure to obtain an annulment for Henry VIII's first marriage to Catherine of Aragon.

'Rub-a-Dub-Dub' was first published in 1798. That English nursery rhyme says:

*Rub-a-dub-dub,  
Three men in a tub,  
And who do you think they be?  
The butcher, the baker,  
the candlestick maker,  
And all of them out to sea.*

During the sixteenth century, carnivals often included what we now would call a peep show. Naked women sat in a tub where they could be observed by paying fairgoers. This nursery rhyme chastises respectable tradesmen for attending such a lewd show.

which one must always be prepared.

The origins of the traditional English nursery rhyme 'Jack and Jill' have been traced back to the eighteenth century. Jill was spelled 'Gill' in Mother Goose's Medley published in 1791. That version reads:

*Jack and Gill went up the hill  
To fetch a pail of water;  
Jack fell down and broke his crown  
And Gill came tumbling after.*

At one time in England, 'Jack and Jill' was a term used to refer to a boy and a girl as a generic pair. Theories about the rhyme's origin include an interpretation that it satirises an attempt by King Charles I of England to raise revenue by ordering that the volume of a Jack ( $\frac{1}{8}$  pint of beer) be reduced in volume while the tax remained the same. As a consequence of this situation, the large Gill ( $\frac{1}{4}$  pint in liquid measure) 'came tumbling after.'

The origins of the English nursery rhyme 'Peter Peter Pumpkin Eater' was first published in London around 1797, but it likely has earlier roots. The first stanza goes:

*Peter, Peter, pumpkin eater,  
Had a wife and couldn't keep her;  
He put her in a pumpkin shell  
And there he kept her very well.*

The most widely accepted interpretation is that a poor man had an unfaithful wife, so his medieval solution was a chastity belt with a lock (pumpkin shell). An alternate theory suggests that he killed and cremated her then kept her ashes in a pumpkin shell.

Variants of the English rhyming jingle 'Higgledy, Piggledy My Black Hen' has



**'Jack and Jill.'**

and perseverance are necessary for success. The first two pigs build their houses quickly using inadequate materials, favouring gratification rather than planning and foresight. The third brother makes his house of bricks. The Big Bad Wolf symbolises adversity for



**'Simple Simon,' 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarves' and 'There Was an Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe.'**





**Peter Peter Pumpkin Eater.**

been traced back to the late sixteenth century. It includes the lines:

*Higgledy, piggledy my fine hen,  
She lays eggs for gentlemen;  
Sometimes nine, sometimes ten;  
Higgledy, piggledy, my black hen.*

It has been theorised that the narrator is a pimp, the hen is a prostitute, and the gentlemen her clients. Alternatively, it might simply be just a counting rhyme for children!

## Marx Origins

Marx figures laid the foundation for eleven of my nursery rhyme dioramas titled as follows:

- 'Mary Had a Little Lamb'
- 'The Three Little Kittens'
- 'Jack Be Nimble'
- 'Little Jack Horner'
- 'Simple Simon'
- 'Humpty Dumpty'
- 'Little Bo Peep'
- 'Little Boy Blue'
- 'Old Mother Hubbard'
- 'Jack and Jill'
- 'Little Miss Muffet'

**'Higgledy, Piggledy My Black Hen.'**



My trio of fairy tale dioramas with Marx roots are:

- 'Jack and the Beanstalk'
- 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears'
- 'Little Red Riding Hood'

## My Additions

I sourced metal figures to create the following eight additional vignettes based on nursery rhymes:

- 'Baa, Baa, Black Sheep'
- 'Diddle, Diddle, Dumpling, My Son John'
- 'Higgledy, Piggledy My Black Hen'
- 'Hickory Dickory Dock'
- 'Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary'
- 'There Was an Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe'
- 'Peter Peter Pumpkin Eater'
- 'Rub-a-Dub-Dub'

I illustrated fairy tales with the following three dioramas:

- 'Hansel and Gretel'
- 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarves'
- 'The Three Little Pigs'

Offhand, who would have guessed what meanings might have been disguised in fairy tales and nursery rhymes!

## ABOUT THE WRITER

**Dr William Schneider** is a retired plastic and reconstructive surgeon. He obtained his first toy soldiers in the early 1950s and they were his favourite toys. Bill returned to the hobby as a Britains collector in the 1980s. He now devotes time to painting figures and creating large and small dioramas on many subjects.



**'Little Jack Horner,' 'Little Miss Muffet' and 'Little Red Riding Hood.'**



# Talking Toy Soldiers with James Opie

## Britain Goes to War

**James Opie** marks the 110th anniversary of the beginning of World War I by marching out a miniature salute to the British combatants in peak caps.

Text and Photos: James Opie

At midnight on 4 August 1914, the British ultimatum to Imperial Germany to cease its invasion of Belgium expired, and Britain entered the World War I.

My great-grandfather had just retired from his post as chaplain to the 1st Battalion, Gordon Highlanders, to marry again, so he did not accompany

force was disengaging 110 years ago.

I have devoted two shelves of my twentieth century warfare cabinet to World War I. They show the combatants before and after steel helmets were fully distributed. This article is devoted to the toy soldiers whose heads are unprotected.

plan. The First Battle of the Marne was fought from 5 to 12 September 1914 and foiled the German attempt to take Paris. Then the opposing forces started to dig trench lines from the North Sea to Switzerland to form the Western Front.

### Contemporary Figures

At the outbreak of the Great War, the only Britains 54mm metal toy soldiers suitable to represent the BEF were the mounted Set 159: 'Territorial Yeomanry' and Set 160: 'Territorial Infantry.' From there, it was a question of deciding what to produce next.

In terms of the various combatant nations, Britains already had models available of all of them except the plucky and overwhelmingly invaded Belgians, so they seemed to be the obvious starting point. Both Set 189: 'Belgian Infantry' and mounted Set 190: 'Belgian Chasseurs' first appeared in the 1915 catalogue. They were closely followed by Set 191: 'French Turcos Charging' as the real colonial light infantrymen were being rushed to the front.

After that there was a pause as the various necessary changes needed to bring the existing figures up to date were started. Also, the internal workings of Britains factory in London had to be changed to allow appropriate members of the staff to join the Army.

Britains' main competitors in 1914 were James Renvoize, Reka, Hanks Brothers and John Hill & Co., who were possibly joined by Fry and Britannia Model Company (BMC) during the course of the war. All these makers came out with figures in peak caps sooner or later. They were easy enough to produce from a head swop to existing models and a coat of khaki paint. Some were probably already in production following the release of the Britains 'Territorial Infantry.'

Overall, Britains' competitors made



**British marching column)** This British marching column includes Britains toy soldiers from the first, second and third version of Set 160 (the eight third version figures at the back of the column are conversions), a Paris Office figure and two rare buglers from Set 1407: 'Modern Army Presentation Box.' With them and other Britains are Hill and other Britains competitors, as well as a few French-made figures. Imagine, if you will, these intrepid men, the cream of the British Army, marching forward into the teeth of the Imperial German onslaught, hoping for the war to be over by Christmas. For a collector of interesting oddments such as myself, they are ever-changing as I look for new and unknown maker's figures that will become their comrades, acting as examples of the weird and wonderful or simply as further examples of well-loved mouldings with oft changing heads, arms and paint finishes who are uncomplainingly and never reaching their final destination.

the regiment to France as part of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF). On 23 August, the Gordons took part in the Battle of Mons and suffered only relatively light casualties. While the BEF and French Fifth Army were retreating in the wake of their defeats at Charleroi and Mons, the British II Corps tried to slow their German pursuers in the Battle of Le Cateau on 26 August. Unfortunately, nearly all of my great-grandfather's Gordons comrades became prisoners of war due to confusion that arose while the British

### Tommies in Action

The BEF totalled 130,000 men under the command of Field Marshal Sir John French. Its two corps took their positions in Belgium just in time to take the full brunt of the oncoming German 1st Army that outnumbered them about 2-1 in the Battle of the Mons. The British Tommies held up the German advance for all of 24 hours.

After that it was a question of retreat until the German advance had spent much of its force, and the various invading armies had got themselves badly out of position from their original



Comrades at Charleroi include prone British and French infantry next to each other representing a moulding only used by the Paris Office. By the time these figures were painted, the French had discarded their bright red trousers and substituted horizon blue, but their Adrian steel helmets had not yet arrived.



Set 160:

'Territorial Infantry' was

changed to use the

figure created for Set

195: 'British Infantry in Steel

Helmets Walking at the Trail,'

which was given webbing equipment.

This brought the 'Territorial Infantry' set

right up to date, and it even included a

new officer on foot that took the place

of the original mounted officer, leaving

space in the box for an extra man.

'British

Machine

Gunners

Sitting Firing' was

issued. Set 199: 'British

Motorcycle Machine Gunners'

and Set 200: 'British Motorcycle Dispatch Riders' had to wait until 1920.

Britains also updated some figures in 1916 by bringing out service dress versions of artillery and transport sets. Those included Set 39A: 'Royal Horse Artillery in Khaki,' Set 144A: 'Royal Field Artillery in Khaki,' Set 145A: 'Royal Army Medical Corps Horse-Drawn Ambulance in Khaki' and Set 146A: 'Royal Army Service Corps Wagon in Khaki.'

comparatively more new models based on World War I than it did. BMC in particular made good-looking figures in various scales, all of which are considerably rarer than Britains.

## London Scottish

The charge of the London Scottish at Messines on 31 October 1914 became famous as the first encounter between any British Territorial regiment and the Germans. It made headlines in newspapers at the time.

Britains made two aggressive looking second-grade models of the London Scottish to commemorate this occasion with both marked *Depose* meaning registered in French. They were echoed by two models from Fry.

The Britains Paris Office factory was certainly offering British soldiers differing from the London range early in the war, and it is possible that those Highland figures were designed in Paris. They and four other similar figures became established in the second-grade range for more than two decades.

## Wartime Production

The only new set modelled in peak caps issued by Britains during 1916 was Set 194: 'British Machine Gunners Lying Firing.'

Such was the impact of the war with its manpower shortages and its conversion of most of the factory to shrapnel ball production that it was only postwar in 1919 that Set 198:



We are close to the Belgian village of Nimy, just north-west of Mons, and the enemy is almost in sight. Let's hope our expert rifle fire will give them a shock. The line of standing men are early dated Hill figures. The two lying riflemen on the left of the repainted Holger Eriksson officer are a Britains Paris Office figure and a rare second-grade Britains with gaiters produced in 1932.





Cavalry Set 159 in a relatively rare 'British Expeditionary Force' labelled box only used in 1914-15 by Britains.

At the same time, Britains produced three varied gun teams at the halt. One of them, Set 318: 'Royal Artillery, with Limber and Horse Team, and Standing and Kneeling Gunners (Active Service Order),' featured khaki service dress, peak caps, an empty-handed mounted officer and all the figures from Set 313. The effect was a little spoiled by the gun and limber, which had gone out of service from 1904. The set was much improved when the eighteen-pounder gun and matching limber of Set 1201: 'Gun of the Royal Artillery' was issued in 1931. It looked very similar to the real thing.

Set 1260: 'British Infantry with Peak Caps (Firing)' was the first attempt as late as 1932 to add infantry in action to the machine gunners on the Western

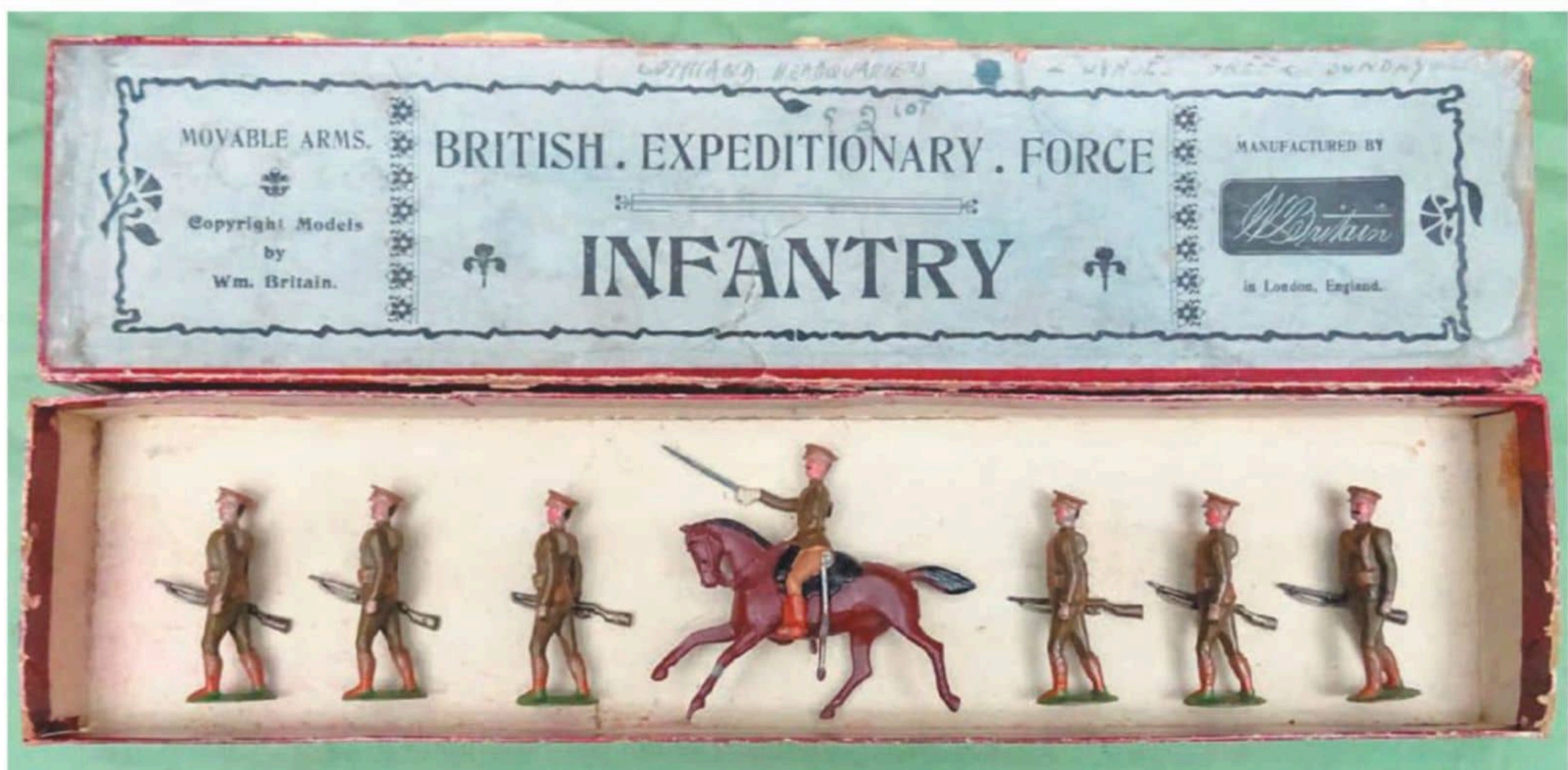
Front. For once following Britains' competitors, they were simply a head change conversion from the full-dress firing infantry. They looked rather odd



Britains Set 1331: 'General Service Limbered Wagon, Royal Engineers, Active Service Order, Khaki' was introduced in 1934. It came with a two-horse team either at the gallop or at the walk as shown here.



Early Fry figures include a dated firing rifleman and the 'Gentleman in Khaki,' a figure inspired by the Second Anglo-Boer War that was still valid in 1914. Unfortunately, the latter has lost much of his rifle.



Early version of Britains Set 160: 'Territorial Yeomanry' with a mounted officer.





Lucotte figures of Scottish Highlanders marching with buglers. As well as its popular Napoleonic Wars figures, the French company produced a near contemporary range of World War I participants.



Britains early artillery in service dress. Shown from the left are examples of Set 144A: 'Royal Field Artillery in Khaki' with collar harness and light harness teams, Set 144A with collar harness and a Set 160: 'Territorial Infantry.'



Once production started of suitable New Toy Soldiers add-ons to old Britains, displays of early World War I scenes could become more varied. Here is a Lancer horse-drawn wire wagon for servicing the enormous number of telephone lines needed to pass orders to the front and information back in the time before radio was widespread.



'British Machine Gunners Sitting Firing.' This set has the added interest of having a box specially made in a size different to any other Britains box, and with a label designed and signed by Lance Corporal Fred Whisstock, who was serving in the Army at the time. This is the earlier version where the models depict the Maxim gun rather than the Vickers.



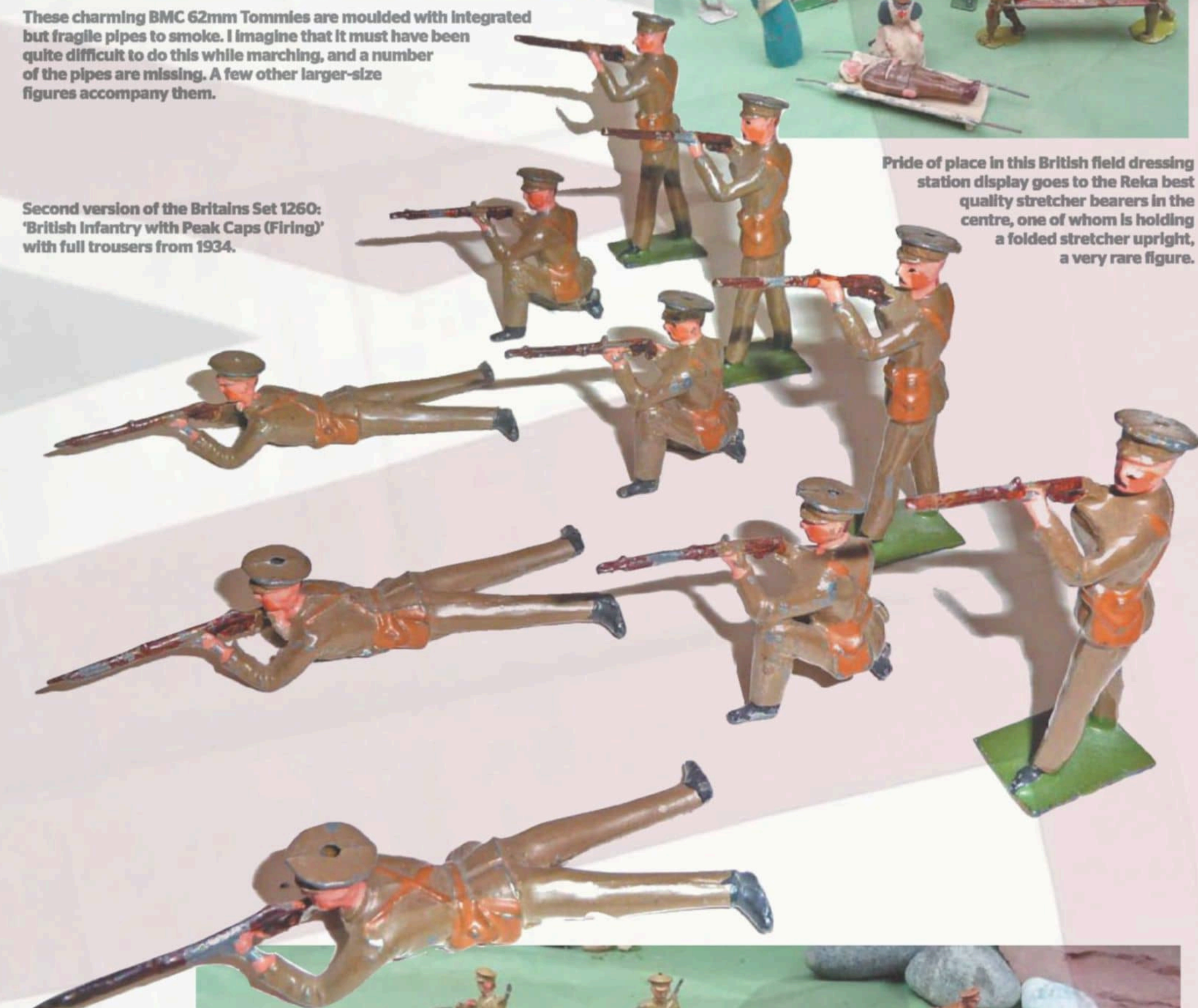


These charming BMC 62mm Tommies are moulded with integrated but fragile pipes to smoke. I imagine that it must have been quite difficult to do this while marching, and a number of the pipes are missing. A few other larger-size figures accompany them.



Pride of place in this British field dressing station display goes to the Reka best quality stretcher bearers in the centre, one of whom is holding a folded stretcher upright, a very rare figure.

Second version of the Britains Set 1260: 'British Infantry with Peak Caps (Firing)' with full trousers from 1934.



Motorbikes and bicycles by Fry, Hill, Britains and BMC are shown from the left. The latter are in my top 50 favourite figures. This group includes figures from the Britains Set 200: 'Motorcycle Dispatch Riders.'







If ever there was wish fulfilment, this was it. Everybody wanted the Germans to be taken prisoner, not killed. Why didn't they simply surrender and stop this stupid war? The Germans with their hands in the air are mostly by Fry. They came six in a boxed set with two of the marching Highlanders as escorts. The figures are on the small side, so they near matching the smaller-size BMC British infantry herding them together at the point of the bayonet. The remaining prisoners include a Mignot figure and various makers unknown to me.



Various Reka marching figures with either fixed or movable arms, and best quality or second-grade paint. The rare Reka drummer has movable arms attached at the shoulder and joined by the drum, an arrangement I don't remember seeing anywhere else.



Soldiers of the London Scottish in the British first wave encounter German forces at Messines in October 1914. The second-grade Britains are toward the front behind an impressive single Hill figure throwing a stick grenade. The Fry versions are at the back with Fry barbed wire entanglements, which were available as a separate set. Supporting the charge are a Britains second-grade figure in a peak cap, a French charging figure made by SR, six Lucotte British charging figures that my wife Mary spotted in Paris, and more SR charging figures representing British and Belgian infantry. On the German side there are Mignot infantry and a machine gunner, a small selection by other makers and a troop of Mignot Uhlans.

with gaiters or full trousers. Perhaps they were supposed to be peacetime soldiers at firing practice. It was a shame that they were not converted from the figures of Set 1251: 'US Infantry Firing' that were issued at the same time and soon appeared in a correct second version with puttees.

In 1933, Britains brought out Set 1287: 'British Military Band in Peak Caps' and Set 1290: 'British Infantry Band of the Line in Peak Caps' in service dress with 21 and twelve pieces respectively. Set 1331: 'General Service Limbered Wagon, Royal Engineers, Active Service Order, Khaki' was introduced in 1934. Military lorries and tenders issued that same year and in 1936 with square bonnets were perfectly adequate to represent World War I motor transport with drivers modelled in khaki uniforms and peak caps.

However, the overall perspective of Britains new products between the wars shows a rather late and limited addition of figures in peak caps, largely likely because of the distaste of the general population for war until the late 1930s, when it became obvious that rearmament was an urgent necessity.



These French forces are mostly from Mignot, including the famous 75mm field guns made for Mignot by SR. A few men still wear red trousers. A Britains Paris Office officer with binoculars stands in the foreground. Two of the Belgian soldiers on guard that Britains brought out in 1915 are in the background. The 75mm gun and crew at right back is by Steadfast Soldiers.

## ABOUT THE WRITER

**James Opie** has written several books about toy soldiers. He was the editor of the Military and Aviation Book Society for decades. He has also prepared toy soldier auction catalogues for 45 years, currently at C&T Auctioneers. James serves on the National Committee of the British Model Soldier Society (BMSS). He welcomes email correspondence on any toy soldier topics at [jamesopie@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jamesopie@yahoo.co.uk).



# FANTASTIC PLASTICS

**Kent Welch** reviews makers' latest and greatest plastic figures to be released into the hobby for collectors.

Austin Miniatures has unleashed its second set of a half-dozen World War II Marines.



## Austin Miniatures World War II US Marines

Reviewed by Kent Welch

Since we are in the midst of commemorating the 80th anniversaries of some major events of World War II, this time I am spotlighting new plastic releases for recreating combat in miniature.

Back in *TSC&HF* issue 115, I shared a sneak preview of American maker Austin Miniatures' second set of Pacific Theatre US Marines. Now they have been released and are ready for hobbyists to deploy! This 54mm set includes six Marines in action that go perfectly with the first set.

These are fierce fighting men perfect for scaling sand dunes and taking the fight to their Japanese foes on Pacific islands. The poses are nicely animated with legs braced for firing or quickly advancing. The men's



The shotgun clears the way!

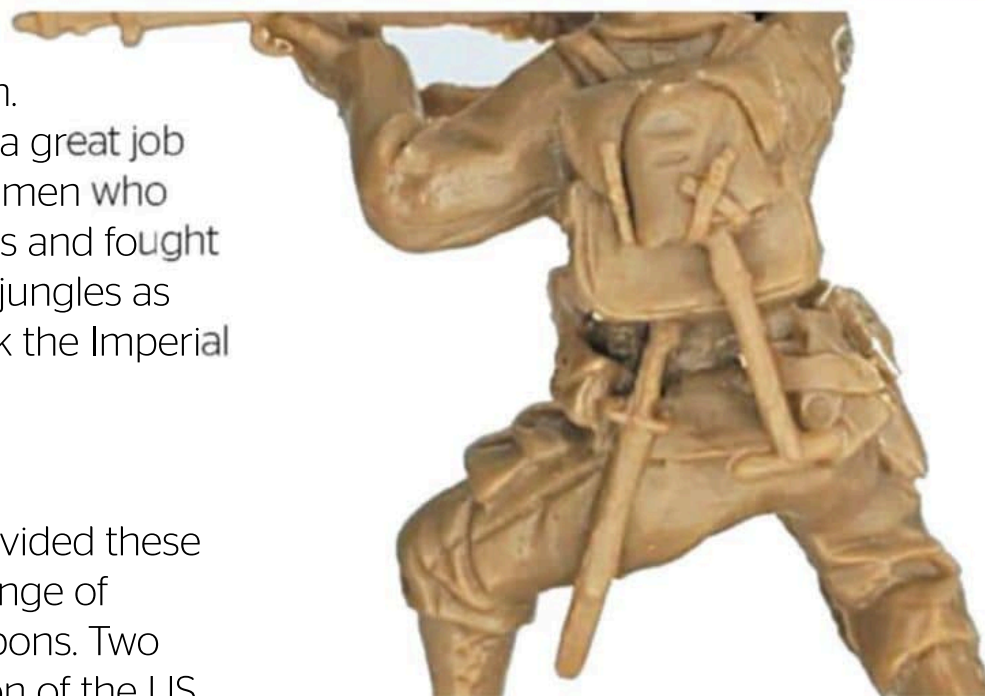
faces are dramatic and their arms convey tension.

Austin Miniatures does a great job of saluting the legendary men who landed on deadly beaches and fought their way through hellish jungles as they steadily pushed back the Imperial Japanese forces.

### Loaded for Action

Austin Miniatures has provided these Devil Dogs with a wide range of historically accurate weapons. Two men carry the key weapon of the US forces during the war: the famous M1 Garand rifle. Next you get a Marines armed with either a Thompson submachine gun or a M1 carbine.

The last two Leathernecks carry weapons that are a bit less common to find on plastic figures. One of them has a Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR). It was used as a light machine gun by the Marines and added firepower to their units. The last Marine carries a Winchester Model 1897 Trench Gun. This type of shotgun was especially efficient in close-quarters combat that



These Marines are well equipped with nicely detailed gear.

erupted in Pacific jungles.

All of these weapon options enhance the visual impact of this set.

Another nice touch is that two of the figures are designed so that you can choose the equipment on their backs and thus their roles in the unit. You can use a standard backpack for a regular rifleman or you can attach a radio pack and make him the squad's radioman.





Marines aim their M1 Garand rifles at foes



Two of the Austin Miniatures Marines are bookended by classic Marx figures for a size comparison.



Marines armed with a Tommy gun and a M1 carbine advance.



Two of the figures offer the option carrying either a radio or a backpack.



The set includes Leathernecks with a BAR and a shotgun.

## Beach and Beyond

Both US Marines sets by Austin Miniatures stand ready to recreate action on the beachheads and beyond. They would work well with toy troops by other makers such as Conte Collectibles, Marx, Toy Soldiers of San Diego and BMC Toys.

A bagged set of all six figures costs \$25 US, a bargain compared to the prices of some other makers. They are available moulded in either khaki or olive-drab plastic. They would be great for use as toy soldiers, modelling or wargaming.

US collectors can get this set directly from [www.austinminiatures.com](http://www.austinminiatures.com).

Others around the world should check with international distributors.

Thanks to Austin Miniatures for providing samples of their figures for this review

### CONTACT

Austin Miniatures  
523 Wilder Avenue  
Huron, OH 44839  
United States of America  
US Tel: +1(419) 602-7564  
Website: [www.austinminiatures.com](http://www.austinminiatures.com)  
Email: [AustinMiniatures@Gmail.com](mailto:AustinMiniatures@Gmail.com)

Austin Miniatures' Marines warily advance through a jungle setting created with palm trees made by Marx and BMC.





BMC has rolled out a World War II German halftrack.

## BMC Toys World War II German Forces

Reviewed by Kent Welch

BMC Toys has added a World War II German Sd.Kfz. 251 'Hanomag' halftrack available moulded in either tan or grey plastic to its 'Classic Army Men Collection' that uses vintage moulds.

This type of unique vehicle is a favourite among collectors. It served many roles during the war, but it was primarily designed by the Hanomag company as a troop transport that could carry men into combat and support them with its machine guns.

The German military soon decided that its mobility, high armoured sides and large bed also made it very good for other uses. As the war went on, this vehicle had as many as 23 different variants! They included use as a communications vehicle, rocket launcher, heavy mortar mobile platform and, when armed with a cannon, as a tank destroyer.

This mass-produced vehicle and saw action in nearly every German

theatre of the war. Its formal name was *Schützenpanzerwagen* but it was called a 'SPW' by the troops and it is now commonly known as a Hanomag among toy collectors.

### Moving Forward

The BMC version is approximately 1/32-scale and it comes with four German riflemen posed sitting. They can all sit in the back or two of them can operate the onboard machine guns.

The figures are recasts from old Marx moulds. I think they are undersized and a bit dull, but once placed inside they do add to the overall effect of the toy.

The vehicle is moulded from hard plastic and it is very detailed. Besides the two main wheels in front, it has two additional wheels hidden under the main portion allowing it to roll along smoothly. BMC also provides a protective front shield and two machine guns.

This halftrack measures 2.5in tall by 2.7in wide and 7in long. Priced at \$18.90 US, it is available in a choice of either tan (ref. BMC-67336) or grey plastic

German halftracks by Airfix, 21st Century Toys and BMC are shown for comparison from the left.



(ref. BMC-67335). This vehicle would be a fun and affordable addition to any battlefield pitting plastic Axis and Allies forces against each other.

I think the most intriguing thing about this halftrack is what the collector chooses to do with it. It can certainly be used just the way it comes with other plastic troops. It could also be altered to serve in several more exotic roles as mentioned above. A simple cannon or extra aerals could make it into a very different piece. A collector or modeller could also choose to paint it to make it look more realistic or to match a specific toy line.



Hidden wheels allow the Hanomag to roll along smoothly



A Britains Deetail Afrika Korps officer borrows the BMC SPW to search for the British Eighth Army.



The German infantry set supplies two examples of each figure pose and two tree stumps for some cover.



German foot soldiers form a firing line.

## German Troops

BMC is also offering a 32-piece piece set titled 'German Infantry' available in either tan (ref. BMC-67311) or 'charcoal grey' (ref. BMC-67312) plastic. These figures were originally released by Classic Toy Soldiers around 1997 and they are being introduced by BMC now.

The set supplies includes 30 German troops in fourteen different poses and two tree stumps for cover. The figures include four seated vehicle riders like those supplied with the Hanomag and two half-body tank crewmen along with riflemen, machine gunners and more.

This is an interesting set. The poses vary from the engaging like a kneeling soldier firing his assault rifle and the two-man machine gun crew to the slightly awkward like the



A German officer oversees a machine gun crew in action.

tentative man considering firing his *Panzerfaust* antitank weapon. Most of the soldiers are modelled in 1/32 scale, but some are closer to 1/30.

These figures are not heavily detailed, in fact in some areas there is a noticeable lack of it. If you are looking for sculpting and uniform features like modern high-end plastic figures, you will not find them here. These are more like traditional plastic toy soldiers, but the overall effect is still good, especially at the price point.

By combining the tank commander and riders from this set with the SPW and its riders a collector can create a very nice vehicle, crew and full squad.

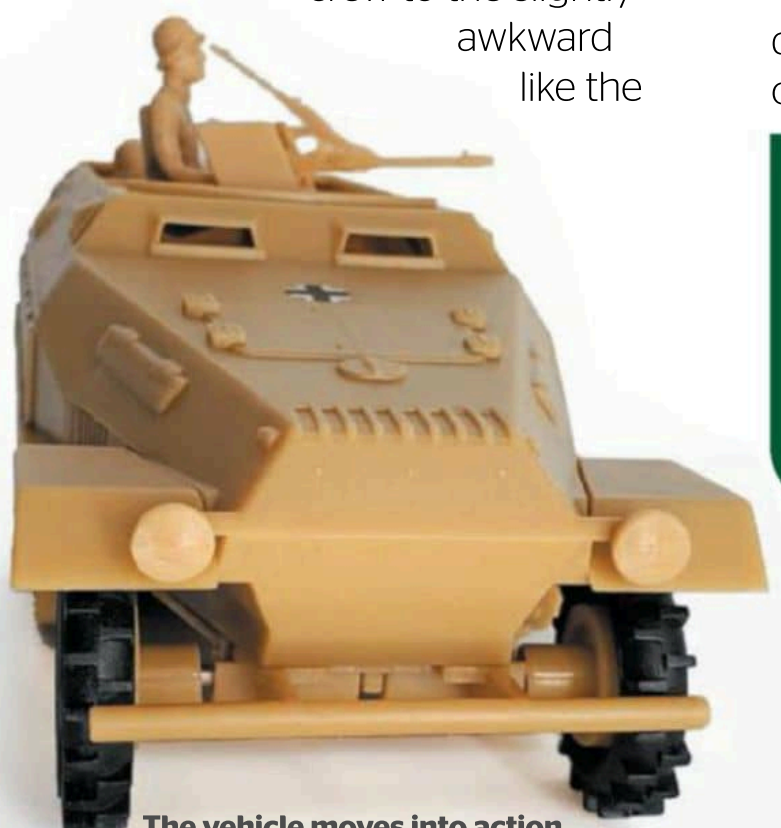
This bagged set is only \$18.90, a very good value. Despite some variance in sizes and lack of detail, these figures are a great addition to a plastic toy soldier collection and would blend well with most other makers' 1/32-scale troops.

These figures can be purchased directly from US-based BMC and it offers international shipping.

## ABOUT THE REVIEWER

American Kent Welch is a long-time Britain's Deetail plastic figures collector. He works in marketing and lives in Tampa, Florida, with his wife Julie and their dog Roxy. He is one of the Collector Guys with multiple platforms devoted to collecting, collectors and their collections. Readers can check them out at [Collectorguys.com](http://Collectorguys.com), TikTok, Instagram and on YouTube under 'Collector Guys'. Enthusiasts can talk to him about toy soldiers at [Deetailcollector@gmail.com](mailto:Deetailcollector@gmail.com).

CONTACT  
VictoryBuy Inc./BMC Toys  
2030 Margaret Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18508  
United States of America  
US Tel: +1 (888) 563-2746  
Website: [victorybuy.com](http://victorybuy.com)  
Email: [shop@victorybuy.com](mailto:shop@victorybuy.com)



The vehicle moves into action.



Figures from both sets can be enlisted to create a fully crewed Hanomag.



# MODEL FIGURES

David Grummitt reviews new unpainted resin and plastic figures and kits.

## MiniArt Various New Releases

Reviewed by David Grummitt

Ukrainian maker MiniArt makes some of the best 1/35-scale plastic figure kits on the market, and the manufacturer's recent World War II releases continue this fine tradition.

The 'U.S. Officers Special Edition' kit (ref. 35477) contains five differently attired US Army figures. Two officers are shown consulting a map, one talks on a radio and the other two are in more relaxed poses. In addition, there are three sprues of US equipment and small arms.

The 'German AFV Crew' kit (ref. 35415) supplies five soldiers wearing the *Panzerjacke* and M1943 field caps. The box art shows them in Field Grey, suitable for self-propelled artillery or StuG units, but, of course, painting their uniforms black would be perfect for tank crewmen. These figures are ideally suited to MiniArt's recent Panzer IV or StuG III, but they could

also grace any of the other recently released late-war German armour kits.

Our thanks to MiniArt for the product information. Its kits are available from all good model shops.



**CONTACT**  
MiniArt  
144 B Kharkivske Highway  
02091 Kiev, Ukraine  
Tel: +38 044 337 1815  
Email: art@miniart-models.com  
Website: www.miniart-models.com

## Master Box Ltd. Indian Wars Series

Reviewed by David Grummitt

One of the most memorable cinematic combat scenes in the film *The Last of the Mohicans* (1992) is an ambush as British Army Major Duncan Heyward escorts the daughters of Colonel Edmund Munro to their father at Fort William Henry at the south end of Lake George in the British Province of New York during the French and Indian War (1754-1763).

Ukrainian maker Master Box Ltd. has clearly been inspired by the movie as well as related historical events such as how after the besieged fort was surrendered to the French army commanded by General Louis-Joseph de Montcalm, his Indian allies violated the agreed terms of the surrender by attacking the retreating British column as it withdrew southward to Fort Edward in August 1757.

The manufacturer has issued a dynamic four-figure group titled 'The Mohicans: Mortal Combat. Indian Wars Series Kit No. 7' (ref. 35236). It depicts two pairs of 1/35-scale Redcoats and Native Americans locked in battle.

The kit title's characterisation of the Indians is a little misleading because author James Fenimore Cooper portrayed the Mohican characters Chingachgook and Uncas as allies of the British in his historical romance novel

*The Last of the Mohicans* (1826). That said, this is a wonderfully sculpted and produced set which, with careful assembly and painting, will result in an eye-catching piece. Our thanks to UK-based Creative Models (www.creativemodels.co.uk) for the review sample.



**CONTACT**  
Master Box Ltd.  
Tel: +38 056 223 7714  
Website: www.mbld.info  
Email: mb\_ltd@ukr.net



# ICM Various New Releases

Reviewed by David Grummitt

Kyiv-based ICM is another Ukrainian manufacturer that has maintained its schedule of product releases despite the ongoing war with Russia. Its recent 1/35-scale releases cover both World War II subjects and kits related to the current conflict.

## Field Kitchen

'Feldküche, WWII German Field Kitchen with Cooks' (ref. 35618) will doubtless form the centrepiece of many dioramas and vignettes. The Germans employed various types of field kitchens during World War II with large ones for personnel ranging from 125 to 225 men and smaller ones for 60 to 125 men. They were transported either by trailer behind motor vehicles or by horse-drawn carriages.



Soldiers humorously called these kitchens the 'Gulaschkanone.' They consisted of a large pot with an insulating layer (using glycerine) for cooking main dishes. Later models of the kitchens included a separate facility for frying. Additionally, these kitchens could simultaneously prepare up to 90 litres of coffee.

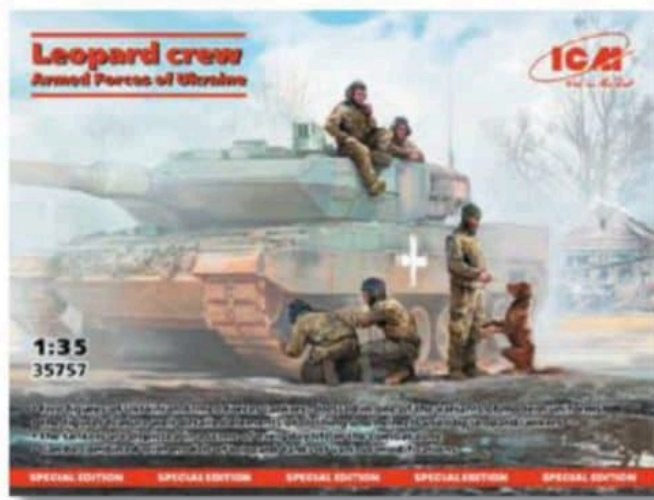
It should be noted that the food ration for Wehrmacht soldiers included a wide variety of products including sausage, cheese, milk and cocoa. Qualified cooks handled food preparation, assisted by helpers who peeled and chopped vegetables, chopped firewood, fetched water and performed other tasks.

This four-figure kit is an entirely new mould.

## Tank Crew

The armour used in the Ukraine-Russia war is well represented by the major plastic kit manufacturers, but suitable figures are less easy to find. To remedy this, ICM has released a five-figure set titled as 'Leopard Crew Armed Forces of Ukraine' (ref. 35757).

Combat units of the Armed Forces of Ukraine operate different types of tanks. Until recently, most were tanks of Soviet design (T-64, T-72, T-80 and their modifications), but beginning in 2023, Western-made combat vehicles began to enter the tank forces of Ukraine. NATO tanks, unlike Soviet-designed ones, have a crew of four men: tank commander, driver, gunner and loader. This set contains those four as well as mechanic and a dog!



## Infantry Weapons

To complement the increasing number of modern Ukrainian figures available, there is also 'Infantry Weapons and Chevrons of the Armed Forces of Ukraine' (ref. 35749).

The main burden of the full-scale war that began in February 2022 fell on the Ground Forces of Ukraine. These include mechanised, motorised infantry, mountain, tank and artillery brigades.



However, the most active participation in combat operations is seen from the Air Assault and Marine Infantry brigades, which often carry out missions in the most challenging areas. Infantry units currently deployed in combat heavily utilise both domestically and Soviet-manufactured weapons. Among Ukrainian-made weapons, notable examples include the Stugna anti-tank missile systems and the widely used 'Fort' series of small arms. Special forces employ the 'Maluk' (also known as Vulkan) assault rifle. Additionally, there is increasing use of weapons acquired through international material and technical assistance.

This large set is perfect for anyone wanting to make a diorama, vignette or even a standalone model relating to the ongoing conflict. It contains eight different infantry weapons, ranging from AK74s to the Fort-221 and the Stugna-B and Stinger missile systems. Perhaps best of all is a large decal sheet including various brigade and unit badges, as well as UA flags, blood group markings and rank chevrons.

## Monty's Staff

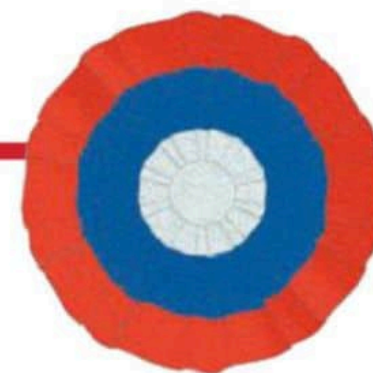
We also have a very interesting World War II four-figure release of 'Montgomery's Staff' (ref. 35617). This too is an entirely new moulding and the kit depicts the redoubtable Bernard Law Montgomery, who commanded the British 21st Army Group from December 1943 and was promoted to field marshal in the wake of the successful Normandy campaign in the autumn of 1944, two staff officers and a soldier bringing news from the front.

Our thanks to ICM for the product information. These kits are now available from good model shops.



CONTACT  
ICM  
9 Borispolskay str., Building 64  
02099 Kyiv, Ukraine  
Tel: +38 044 369 5412  
Website: [www.icm.com.ua](http://www.icm.com.ua)  
Email: [icm@icm.com.ua](mailto:icm@icm.com.ua)





# Kit Korner:

## Model Figure Painter's Project

**Paul Newman** builds and paints figures of French Emperor Napoleon I on foot and mounted produced by two different makers.

Text and Photos: Paul Newman

This time I am building and painting a couple of figures from two manufacturers that are new to me, although one of them has a longer history than any other!

The first is Campaign Miniatures which was newly launched under the Hudson & Allen Studio banner. Both of those in turn are part of the family of brands produced by US-based W. Britain Model Figures, which traces its toy soldier lineage back to 1893 in London. You might have heard of them!

The second maker is Figurinitaly, who you might not have heard of before, and it hails from where else but Italy. It has been operated for a number of years by Ivo Preda, a well-known European who has won acclaim for his Napoleonic mounted figures.

Campaign Miniatures sent me a resin model figure kit depicting French Emperor Napoleon I on foot while the kit I have from Figurinitaly depicts him mounted, so I have two different Napoleons! Both are dressed in his famous greatcoat, but they are quite

different in appearance.

The Campaign Miniatures range is designed for modellers rather than collectors of painted figures and vehicles, but its kits are based on releases from the W. Britain toy soldier and model figure range. The Napoleon on horseback comes from Figurinitaly's new series of limited-edition kits of Napoleonic Wars personality figures.

Both figures are expertly sculpted with well-defined details and they could be painted in either the toy soldier or connoisseur styles. I define



The Campaign Miniatures kit is shown straight out of the box.



Figurinitaly's kit depicting Napoleon on horseback.



The two versions of Napoleon are shown for size comparison.



A base red paint was used for the horse blanket.





**Gold and leathery brown colourings are added to the horse.**



**Touches of brass are added to the saddle.**



**Brushwork using various tones fleshes out the faces.**



**The figures' clothing is almost all grey**

a connoisseur-style figure as being painted in realistic matt finishes and details as would be seen on a real person with artistic highlighting and shading applied due to the size of the figure to emphasise its shape and form.

## Kits Inspections

The Campaign Miniatures 'Napoleon Bonaparte on Foot' kit (ref. 70011) retails for \$25. It is listed as being 1/30-scale (60mm), but I think it's really 1/32-scale (54mm).

The kit comes in just four parts plus a base. The body and the hat is one component. The separate sword, scabbard and sword knot are moulded together. The left arm is moulded to the body with the right arm being separate.

The greatcoat seams are well sculpted and will require careful painting, if you want to show that detail. Because the sword stands out in front of the figure, it might be best to paint

it or at least paint part of it before attaching it to the figure to prevent any mishaps with the slender resin.

The head could be painted separately too in order to get closer to the face. I chose to paint the entire figure in one go.

There is a great photo of the completed figure on the box, though I think the greatcoat is painted a little too dark.

Preda sculpted Figurinality's mounted figure of 'Napoleon, Campagne de France, 1814'. It is priced at £53.

It is also a simple kit consisting of six main resin parts with the body and the legs of Napoleon coming as one component. Like the Campaign Miniatures model, the Italian maker's has moulded the head and hat as one part.

The horse comes as two halves along with a head and tail to attach to it. A nice touch is the inclusion of an

additional stirrup, bit, spur and buckle because these small pieces can easily get broken or lost during assembly.

The horse is nicely moulded, but the rider is a bit soft in definition, which will make an interesting comparison with the foot figure. The Figurinality model is 1/30-scale so it is relatively a bit larger than the Campaign Miniatures version.

Figurinality's model is based on artist Ernest Meissonier's 'Campagne de France, 1814' painting imbued with historical realism as it portrays Napoleon leading his troops across snowy and muddy terrain. The box art shows the painting for inspiration. The base is detailed similarly to the artwork. Instructions are available for how to make and paint this classic image of Napoleon on campaign, including references regarding the coat and horse.





**The Campaign Miniatures figure's greatcoat gets painted.**



**The mounted emperor's clothes are painted grey.**



**The mounted figure is sculpted attached to the pistol holsters, which are covered in gold lace.**



**The hands were painted to white to recreate gloves.**

## Historical Context

The subject of these two models is one of the most famous personalities in history and the focus of hundreds if not thousands of books, so I will not elaborate much on Napoleon here. What I will share are my own thoughts on the man, who I have studied for many years like I am confident that many *TSC&HF* readers have too.

Napoleon became one of the most powerful men in Europe in the nineteenth century due to his military skills. He studied his profession well and combined the knowledge he had acquired with great natural ability, and some would say luck, by being in the right place at the right time during the French Revolution and coming to the aid of those in power several times. If you combine this with his meticulous ability to maintain an attention to detail and his capacity for unrelenting hard work, you can understand how he quickly rose to power.

Once Napoleon gained command of the French army, he honed it into the most formidable force in Europe. He built around him a leadership team based on ability, not social background or wealth. Napoleon also displayed great skill in maintaining the army's morale. He was admired by his soldiers and they trusted his abilities thereby creating a following that bordered on idolatry.

Although Napoleon possessed considerable diplomatic skill, some of his strategic decisions were catastrophic. For instance, his disastrous Russian campaign of 1812 led to his downfall in 1814. Still as a general, his reputation was exceptional.

Britain's Duke of Wellington, who defeated Napoleon in the climactic Battle of Waterloo in 1815, observed, "His presence on the field of battle made a difference of 40,000 men."

In my view, Napoleon's downfall came about because in his later years his health worsened which

led to situations when he seemed to lack the intensity and activity of previous times. His following among the army was as strong as ever, but his soldiers had been at war for too long and were not the same army that started out in 1812.

Napoleon's final defeat at Waterloo came about because he made a rash decision to battle the Allied armies gathering to prevent his attempts to take on the world again, and his opponents had worked out how to defeat his strategies.

## Building the Figures

I don't have much to say about building the Campaign Miniatures figure of Napoleon on foot. There were absolutely no mould lines to remove and all the parts fit together perfectly. I used epoxy glue to attach the feet to the base provided and it served as a good holder while I painted the kit.

The Figurinitally mounted figure had a large mould line down the right side of the body that required filing away. Also, there was

a fair bit of work needed to smooth down and fill gaps to join the horse halves with the head but since the model is moulded in resin, it was fairly easy to do. I attached the horse to the base to provide a holder for painting just like the foot figure. I did not attach the mounted figure to the horse until after I painted the horse.

## Painting Process

I used the relatively new ATOM paints by Spanish manufacture AMMO on these two models.

The horse was painted in a mix of White (A.MIG-20000), Light Skin (A.MIG-20042) and Black (A.MIG-20163) by working with a mid-tone then applying lighter colouring going to White and then using the mid-tone and going to darker tones with more Light Skin and a grey mix for the shadows. The base Red (A.MIG-20029) was used for the horse blanket. The gold braiding was painted using a base of Gold (A.MIG-20172) and Leather (A.MIG-20058).





**Pure white was used only on the highest areas to show greatest depth of features.**



**A mix of mud and snow and mud effects are added to the mounted model.**

with some Black added for deep shadows. This was then built up to a bright yellow using Rust (A.MIG-20045), Yellow (A.MIG-20018), Orange (A.MIG-20027) and White with more of the Gold mixed in. Brasses were painted using Brass (A.MIG-20173). When this was dry, I added the painted Napoleon.

I intended to paint both figures at the same time, so the following information applies to them equally.

I always start with painting the face on any figure. The mounted Napoleon has a softly featured face while the figure on foot has quite defined features. They look quite different from each other because the figure on foot has a thin face and the mounted version has the more traditional older Napoleon rounded face. I painted both faces in a base coat of dark flesh made up of Basic Flesh (A.MIG-20041), Leather and Red. I painted the eyes first using the Basic Flesh mixed with White for the irises and then Umber Brown (A.MIG-20055) and Black for the pupils. I applied more of the Basic Flesh for highlights and added in more Leather for shadows.



**Artificial model scale grass and leaves enhance the foot figure's base.**

The clothing is almost all grey with only a few parts showing the clothes underneath such as the cuffs and collar. For this I used the White and Black mixed with Blue (A.MIG-20110), applying more of the White for highlights, darkening it with a dark blue-black mix and adding more Black to the mix for the deepest shadow. All the buttons on the coat would be just grey wool. To make them stand out, I used a touch of White.

The mounted figure is sculpted attached to the pistol holsters, which are covered in gold lace, so I used the same technique for this as with the gold on the horse so it would blend in tonally.

Elements like the hats and boots were painted with Black mixed with Leather used for highlights on the boots. A grey mixture was used for the coat.

The hands were painted in white to represent gloves. Pure white was used only on the highest areas and where I wanted to show greatest depth of the features of the gloves.

As I often do, I finished painting the figure by painting the metal parts such as the buttons, scabbard and spurs with appropriate metallic finish acrylic paints along with washes of black to bring out the depth of the sculpting.



## Finishing Touches

Since I had built the figures on the bases that came with them, I decided to incorporate them into larger piece of groundwork to fit wooden bases. I glued the bases of the figures to their wooden bases with epoxy resin two-part glue. Since the painting depicts Napoleon trotting across a snowy landscape, I covered the mounted figure's base with plaster filler then coated it with 'Scenic Winter Snow Effects' (ref. BD-29) by Deluxe Materials. After things dried, I added touches of brown to recreate mud.

The foot figure's base was finished with artificial model scale grass and leaves. They were given a dry brush of a light greenish yellow to help them display better, with the Red and Orange mixed together for the 'flowers.'

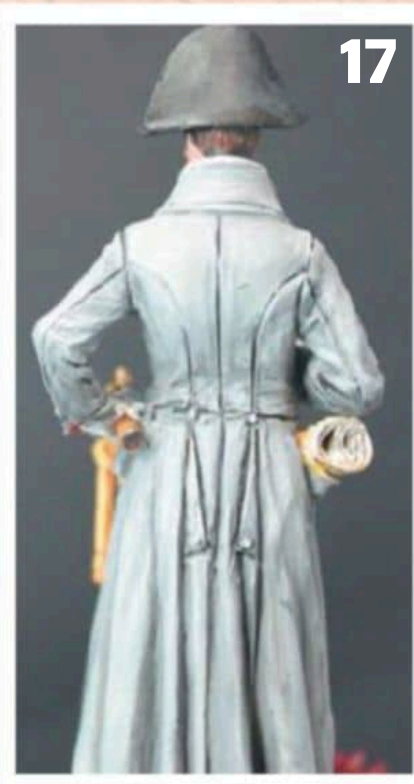
Thanks to W. Britain for the review model. Its new Campaign Miniatures products are well worth checking out.

The Figurinitaly Napoleon is from a new range called 'Collecting the Classics.' The model painted up well, especially the lace.

These projects gave me a chance to paint braid with non-metallic metal paints and add two new models of Napoleon to my collection

## ABOUT THE WRITER

**Paul Newman** is a keen modeller whose main interest is the Napoleonic Wars, particularly British cavalry. He is a long-time member of the British Model Soldier Society and serves as its treasurer, while his wife, Julie, is its secretary. Together they help spearhead organising the BMSS Annual Show. Paul's memberships have also included Planetfigure and The Basement. In addition, the Newmans operate Name It! providing engraved nameplates to model figure enthusiasts. They can be found manning their stand at many major European shows.



Right-side, back, and left-side views of the Napoleon model figure by Campaign Miniatures.



The equestrian figure of the emperor is mounted on its scenic base.

**CONTACT**  
Campaign Miniatures  
Hudson & Allen Studio  
W. Britain Model Figures  
20 E. Water Street  
Chillicothe, Ohio 45601  
United States of America  
US Tel: +1 (740) 702-1803  
UK Tel: +44 (0)8000 869123  
Website: [www.wbritain.com](http://www.wbritain.com)  
Email: [wbinfo@wbritain.com](mailto:wbinfo@wbritain.com)

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# A LOOK AT BOOKS

OUR REVIEWERS CHECK OUT SOME NEW BOOKS THAT MIGHT PIQUE THE INTEREST OF HOBBYISTS AND HISTORY BUFFS.

## Atlas of the Battles and Campaigns Of the American Revolution 1775-1783

### ABOUT THE BOOK

**Authors:** David C. Bonk and George Anderson

**Published by:** Helion & Company

**ISBN:** 978-1-914059-79-7

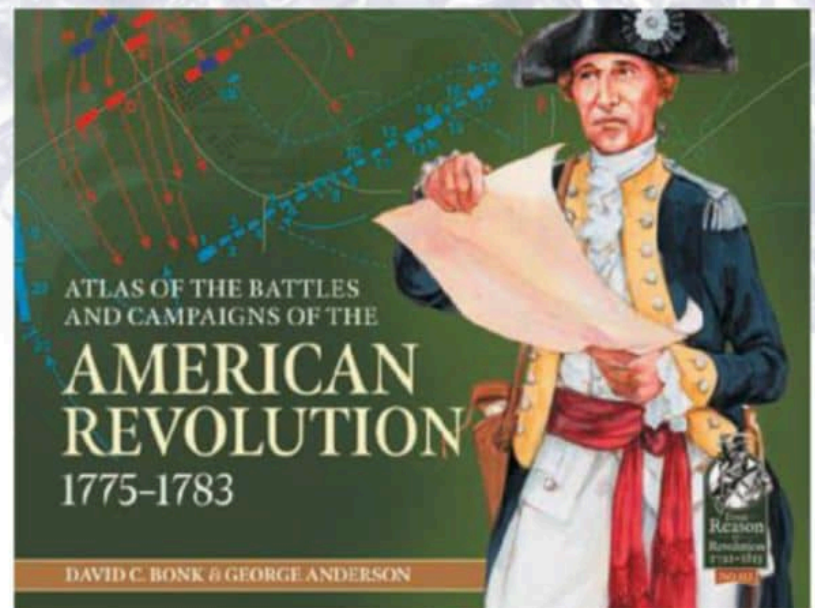
**Price:** £59.95/\$75 US

Reviewed by Stuart A. Hessney

David C. Bonk and George Anderson have joined forces to produce a penultimate reference work titled *Atlas of the Battles and Campaigns of the American Revolution 1775-1783*. It has been published in an attractive and extra-large 226-by-300mm horizontal format and it features more than 120 full-colour maps showing the topography and troop dispositions for everything from relatively minor skirmishes to full-blown battles.

The narrative flows from the opening volleys between Colonial forces and British troops at Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts to Saratoga in New York, the climactic Siege of Yorktown in Virginia and beyond.

The coauthors are avid wargamers. Bonk is a former board member of the Historical Miniatures Gaming Society and was named its 2019 Gamemaster of the Year. Anderson is a



Royal Navy veteran who started drawing maps for his own successful American Civil War series starting in 1990 before mainly working with Helion & Company.

His references for this book project included maps in the US Library of Congress, more accurate 1880s topographical maps and other sources. Artwork accompanies the wealth of information packed into each incident's concise, well-written and illuminating account. This book should be a valuable resource for everyone from students of history to reenactors and wargamers.

This atlas is volume 112 in Helion's 'From Reason to Revolution 1721-1815' series. Our thanks to the publisher's ([www.helion.co.uk](http://www.helion.co.uk)) US distributor Casemate Publishers ([www.casematepublishers.com](http://www.casematepublishers.com)) for a review copy.

## Russia's Wars in Chechnya 1994-2009

### ABOUT THE BOOK

**Author:** Mark Galeotti

**Published by:** Osprey Publishing, Essential Histories

**ISBN:** 978-1-47285-822-1

**Price:** £12.99/\$20 US

Reviewed by Stephen Healey

*Russia's Wars in Chechnya 1994-2009* is an updated edition of expert Mark Galeotti's well-received 2014 book. Many maps and photographs illustrate his concise account of wars fought between the breakaway republic in the Northern Caucasus and the Russian Federation following the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

The first First Chechen War was inaugurated by Russian President Boris Yeltsin, fought from 1994 to 1996 and ended with the signing of the Khasavyur Accord. The costly conflict left matters largely unresolved between Russia and the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria.

After succeeding Yeltsin, Vladimir Putin waged the protracted Second Chechen War from 1999 to 2009. Chechnya was subdued and reincorporated into Russia.

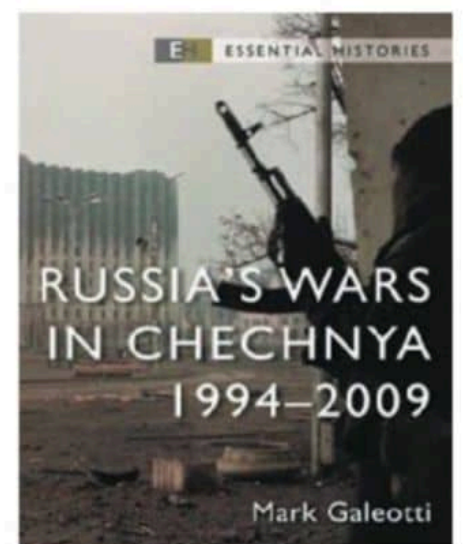
This is a story of devastating warfare that destroyed most of Chechnya's infrastructure, cost the lives of resistance leaders and landed many of its people in refugee camps. Terrorism became a tool during the struggles and both sides engaged in bitter brutality.

The Chechens became divided into many camps including national secularists, jihadists and followers of tribes or clans.

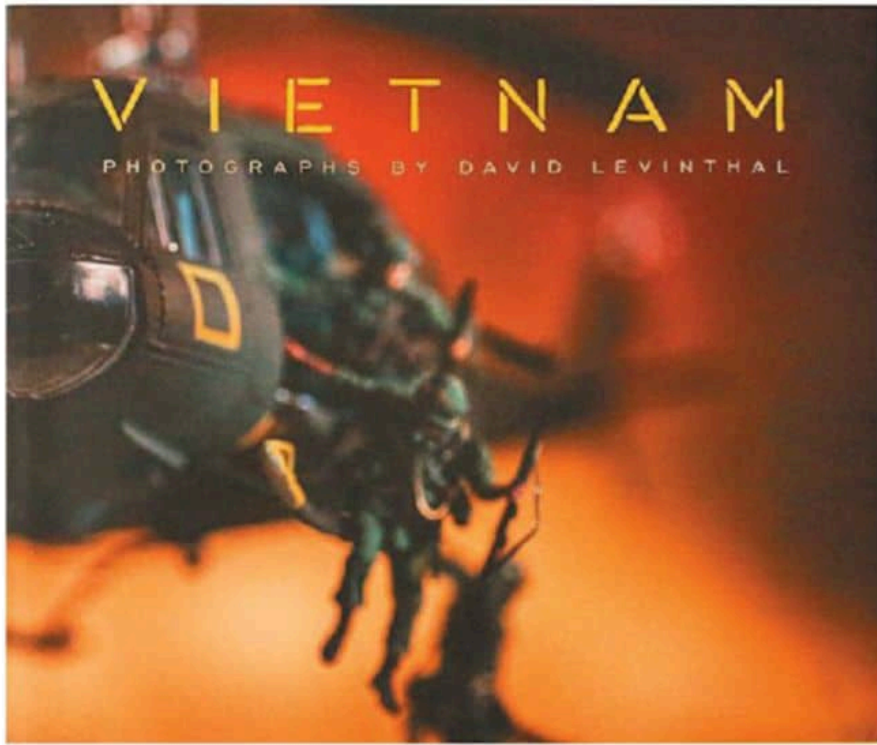
It can be argued that Putin's efforts were so punitive and overwhelming that he broke Chechnya's back and made further resistance pointless.

The outcome established Putin's reputation of being intent on reviving the old Russian Empire and maintaining strict centralised control. It was a precursor to both the subsequent Georgia-Ossetian conflict and the war in Ukraine. The world watched and was horrified but little to prevent the Chechen conflicts from playing out.

Our thanks to the publisher ([ospreypublishing.com](http://ospreypublishing.com)) for providing a review copy.







## Vietnam

### ABOUT THE BOOK

**Author:** David Levinthal

**Published by:** Kekrer Verlag Heidelberg

**ISBN:** 978-3-96900-145-5

**Price:** \$64.99 US

Reviewed by E. Patrick Gallagher

Two years ago, I received a voicemail that would have an intriguing influence on my career as a builder of military dioramas featuring figures. The message was left by author and photographer David Levinthal, who stated that he had seen my work in *Toy Soldier Collector & Historical Figures* magazine and asked whether I would be interested in doing a Vietnam War diorama for him. As a US Army veteran of the conflict in Southeast Asia, I was intrigued by the opportunity to showcase 'my war' in miniature.

A quick Google search revealed that David has art and technical university degrees from Stanford, Yale and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Also, he is a central figure in American postmodern photography who has authored more than twenty books using his unique photo skills and varied toy soldiers and model figures to illustrate multiple cultural themes and viewpoints. David's evocative and highly sought-after photos are displayed in galleries, art museum collections and the homes of many figure enthusiasts around the world.

David's new coffee table-sized book is titled *Vietnam* and its 192 pages are illustrated by figures and dioramas to dramatise the actions and atmosphere more than 1 million military service members experienced during a very divisive part of US history. His photos are complemented by essays penned by Lisa Hostetler, a museum curator and art historian who

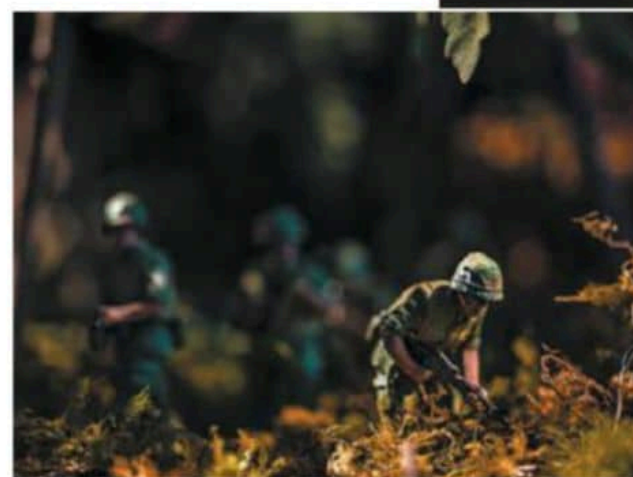
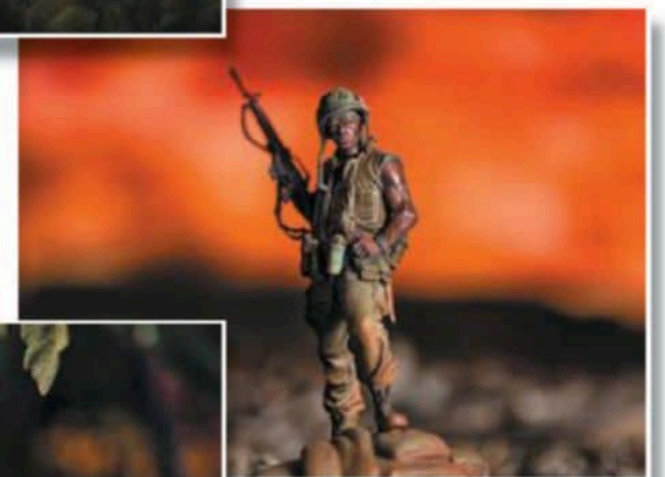
specialises in photography and modern art; fiction writer, essayist and critic Walter Kirn, whose novels *Thumbsucker* (1999) and *Up in the Air* (2001) were adapted for movies; and Bernard-Henri Lévy, a French philosopher, novelist, columnist, playwright and filmmaker.

Using primarily King & Country Ltd. 1/30-scale figures and stunning technical and visual photographic enhancements for his diorama scenes, David brings to startling life the intensity of war and heart-pounding battles from the perspectives of both sides. His pictures don't judge nor show a particular adversary's political perspective but David's use of K&C's highly detailed figures creates a sense of determined balance on both sides.

As a collector and diorama builder who has worked with him, I am mesmerised by how David crafts carefully positioned scenes so each picture dramatically illustrates a moment in time. As a combat veteran of the war, I found myself having an emotional reaction to many of the pictures and situations, even though they were reenacted ostensibly by what most people consider toys.

This book reflects what I think captivates many of us about this hobby. It shows how the historical scenes we set up for our collections and the lifelike dioramas we build allow us to experience points in time in ways that are both meaningful and of personal interest to each of us.

This is a must-have book for every toy soldier and model figure enthusiast. It is a beautiful and meaningful work of photographic imagination and art. Although *Vietnam* concentrates on a single conflict, it reflects the truly artistic form our hobby can take.



## Write a Book Review!

Do you have a non-fiction book of interest that you'd like to review in *TSC&HF*? Then please get in touch with the editor, Stuart A. Hessney, about requirements via e-mail at [stuart@guidelinepublicationsusa.com](mailto:stuart@guidelinepublicationsusa.com).



# Warships in the Pacific 1879-83: South America's Ironclad Naval Campaign

## ABOUT THE BOOK

**Author:** Angus Konstam

**Illustrator:** Paul Wright

**Published by:** Osprey Publishing, New Vanguard 328

**ISBN:** 978-1-47286-124-5

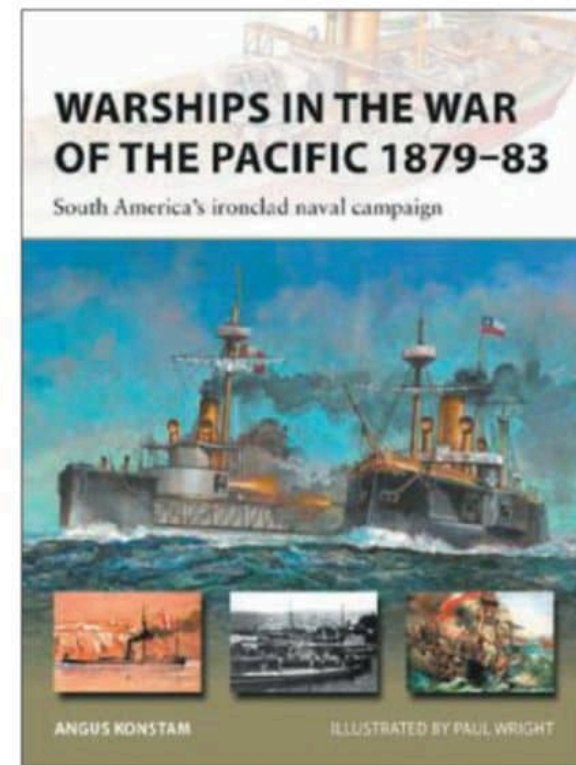
**Price:** £12.99/\$20 US

Reviewed by Stephen Healey

Angus Konstam explores a relatively little-known war in the new 48-page paperback *Warships in the Pacific 1879-83: South America's Ironclad Naval Campaign*.

The War of the Pacific, also referred to as the Saltpeter War or the Nitrate War, pitted Peru against Chile for control of natural resources, including the Chincha Islands because they were rich in both sodium nitrates and bird guano valued for agricultural fertiliser. It was predominately a naval war because the combatant countries had narrow and arid land borders as well as long and exposed coastlines.

In this pre-Dreadnought era, steam-powered ironclad warships built in either the US, UK or France ruled the waves. This South American conflict witnessed more clashes between ironclads than the American Civil War. In fact, some of the ships dated back to that time while others were more modern.



Chile's navy was larger and more up to date, however, Peru had good repair facilities. Gunnery techniques and tactics evolved. A worldwide audience followed developments during the war.

Bolivia's naval strength was so negligible that it relied on Peru to spearhead the effort against Chile. Peru's ace in the hole was the *Huáscar*, a small British-built ironclad that led its navy. While most the Peruvian naval vessels were ultimately either lost at sea or scuttled in the end, the *Huáscar* survived the war, was captured by victorious Chile and taken to Valparaíso where the prize is anchored to this day. Peru and Bolivia were compelled to cede resource-rich territory and the latter became landlocked.

Our thanks to the publisher (ospreypublishing.com) for providing a review copy.

# Germany's French Allies 1941-45

## ABOUT THE BOOK

**Author:** Massimiliano Afiero

**Illustrator:** Ramiro Bujeiro

**Published by:** Osprey Publishing, Men-at-Arms 556

**ISBN** 978-1-47286-299-0-

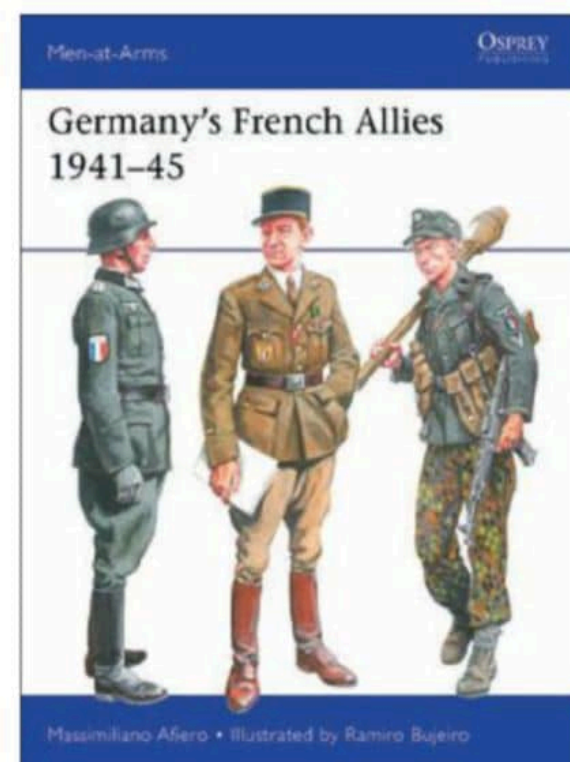
**Price:** £12.99/\$20 US

Reviewed by Stephen Healey

Author Massimiliano Afiero profiles World War II military sympathisers in *Germany's French Allies 1941-45*.

Following the Fall of France, some individuals joined the German forces. Then when Nazi leader Adolf Hitler launched the Operation Barbarossa invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941, about 13,000 Frenchmen enlisted in the *Légion des volontaires français contre le bolchévisme* (LFV) to join the 'crusade' against communism. It became the Wehrmacht's Infanterie-Regiment 638 and was despatched to Russia.

This 48-page paperback also examines French volunteers who served in the *Phalange Africaine* in Tunisia and the *Légion Tricolore*. The latter was a relatively short-lived military organisation under the control of the French Vichy government. Frenchmen suffered significant losses as the Red



Army prevailed in the Battle of Moscow between September 1941 and January 1942. French troops also sustained losses in gruelling partisan suppression campaigns behind the front lines.

During the winter of 1944 to 1945, remaining LFV troops were reorganised into the SS-Division 'Charlemagne.' They met their end as the Red Army advanced through Poland and East Prussia to capture Berlin. Many Frenchmen lost their lives but some surrendered to the Russians or Western Allies.

Artwork by Ramiro Bujeiro enhances this book. It is a good resource for learning details of the history, leadership, units and uniforms.

Our thanks to the publisher (ospreypublishing.com) for providing a review copy.



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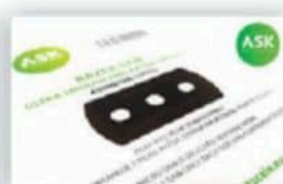
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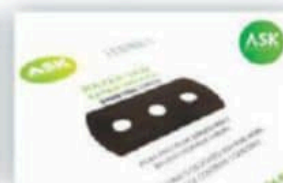
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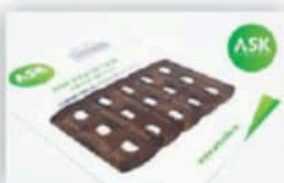
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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Organisers must submit show details in advance and any subsequent updates via email to [stuart@guidelinepublicationsusa.com](mailto:stuart@guidelinepublicationsusa.com). Readers are urged to check with organisers and online about possible postponements or cancellations before finalising plans to attend an event.

## October

### Sunday, 6 October

#### North East Toy Soldier Society (NETTS) Toy Soldier, Toy, Model Kit, Military Book Show and Sale

Hilton Garden Inn, 5 Wheeler Road, Burlington, Massachusetts, USA, 01803. 09:00 to 15:00. Admission \$8, two people for \$15 and children under age fifteen free. Contact show Chairman Matthew Murphy of Hobby Bunker, US tel: +1 (781) 321-8855 or e-mail [matt@hobbybunker.com](mailto:matt@hobbybunker.com).

### Saturday and Sunday, 19 and 20 October

#### Fifteenth Anniversary Scale Model Challenge,

NH Eindhoven Conference Centre 'Koningshof', Locht 117, 5504 RM Veldhoven (near Eindhoven), Netherlands. Hours: 10:00-17:00 each day. Admission: Day ticket €12 (children up to age fourteen €10), multi-day ticket €17 children (up to age fourteen €14), and children under age six free. Features an exhibition, competition, demonstrations and traders. Website: [www.scalemodelchallenge.com](http://www.scalemodelchallenge.com).

### Friday and Saturday, 18-19 October

#### Chicago Show organised by the Military Miniature Society of Illinois

Schaumburg Marriot, 50 North Martingale Drive, Schaumburg, Illinois, USA, 60173. The event will feature exhibits, traders, an auction and seminars. Website: [www.military-miniature-society-of-illinois.com](http://www.military-miniature-society-of-illinois.com).

### Saturday, 19 October

#### Letchworth Scale Model Club Showcase

Icknield Centre, Icknield Way, Letchworth Garden City, UK, SG6 1EF. The event will feature club displays, painting demonstrations, wargames, competitions and trade stands. 10:00 to 16:00. Contact: email: [ismcshowcase2023@gmail.com](mailto:ismcshowcase2023@gmail.com).

### Sunday, 20 October

#### New Jersey Toy Soldier Show and Sale

Wayne Police Athletic League (PAL), 1 Pal Drive, Wayne, New Jersey, USA. 09:00 to 15:00. Admission \$6; children under age 10 free. Contact: Ed Gries of Relic Golden Amusements, US tel: +1 (201) 342-6475, or Matthew Murphy of Hobby Bunker, US tel: +1 (781) 321-8855 or e-mail [matt@hobbybunker.com](mailto:matt@hobbybunker.com).

## November

### Saturday, 9 October

#### 33rd Annual South Carolina Military Miniature Society Show

South Carolina Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum, 301 Gervais St., Columbia, South Carolina, USA, 29201. 10:00 to 15:00. Free admission. Features vendors and club exhibits. Contact: Jake Jacobs, US tel: +1 (803) 404-7007 or e-mail [jakemanr@hotmail.com](mailto:jakemanr@hotmail.com); online: [www.facebook.com/SCMilitaryMiniatureSociety](http://www.facebook.com/SCMilitaryMiniatureSociety).

### Saturday and Sunday, 9-10 November

#### Scale ModelWorld

International Centre, St Quentin Gate, Telford, Shropshire, UK, TF3 4JH. 10:00-18:00 Saturday and 10:00-16:00 Sunday (opening times one hour earlier for members). Plans include a competition, talks and demonstrations. More than 100 traders and as many as 170 club and special interest group displays are expected. Sponsored by the International Plastic Modellers Society UK. Free admission for IMPS members from around the world. Website: [ipmsuk.org](http://ipmsuk.org).

## December

### Sunday, 1 December

#### Bugle Call

Nailsea School, 'The Link', Mizzymead Road, Nailsea, North Somerset, UK, BS48 2HN. 10:00-16:30. Staged by the Bristol Area Branch of the British Model Soldier Society and Planet Figure, the event will feature open competitions, club displays, demonstrations, re-enactors and traders. Admission £5 for adults, £4 for OAP, £2 for children under age twelve and £9 for families. Contacts: traders: Bob Orr, email [boborr@talktalk.net](mailto:boborr@talktalk.net); clubs: Kevin Peart, email: [slenderboy0247@gmail.com](mailto:slenderboy0247@gmail.com); Website: [www.bmssbristol.org.uk](http://www.bmssbristol.org.uk).

### Saturday, 7 December

#### Heart of the South Toy Soldier, Military & Miniature Figure Show & Sale

Annandale VFD Community Center, 7128 Columbia Pike, Annandale, Virginia, USA, 22003. Details and contacts same as above.

### Saturday, 7 December

#### London Toy Soldier & Historical Figures Show

Haverstock School, 24 Haverstock Hill, Chalk Farm, London, UK, NW3 2BQ. Europe's No. 1 toy soldier show. Hours: 09:30 to 10:30 (early bird admission £10), 10:30 to 14:00 (£6) and 14:00 to 16:00 (£4); prepaid tickets £5 from 10:30; children under age sixteen free.

Contact: Stella Reason: UK tel: +44 (0)1582 668411

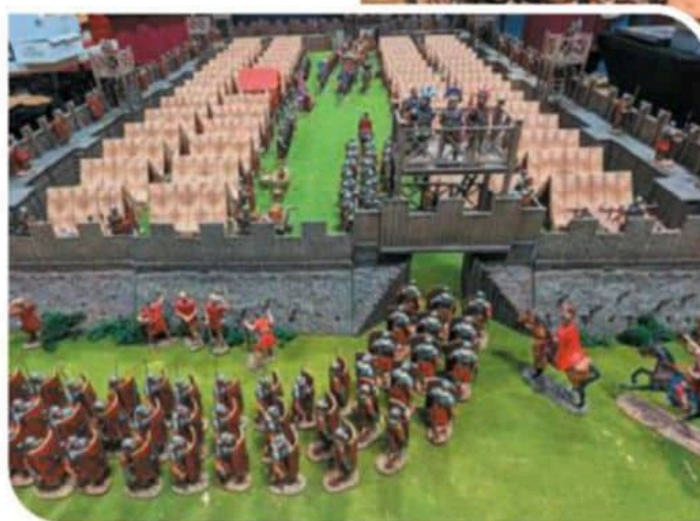
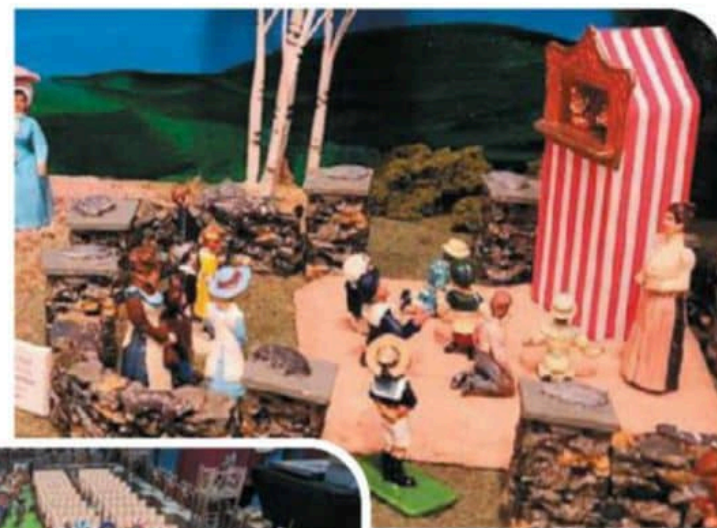
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### Sunday, 8 December

#### London Plastic Modelling Show, Haverstock School

24 Haverstock Hill, Chalk Farm, London, UK, NW3 2BQ. Hours: 10:00 to 16:00. Admission £6. Features traders, club displays and an annual open competition with classes reflecting all the modelling genres covered by Guideline Publications magazines and more. Contact details the same as above.

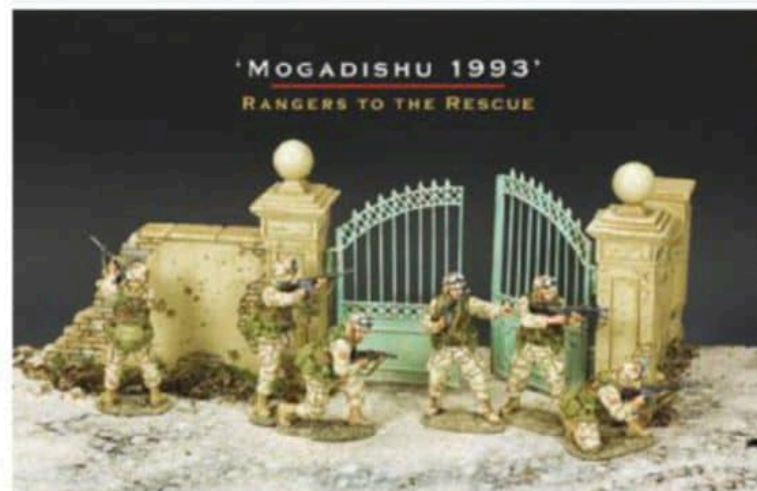
Detail from the club diorama titled 'English Park 1900' displayed at the 2023 South Carolina Military Miniature Society Show.



A large-scale Ancient Roman fort display was one of the London show's highlights in December 2023.



## King & Country



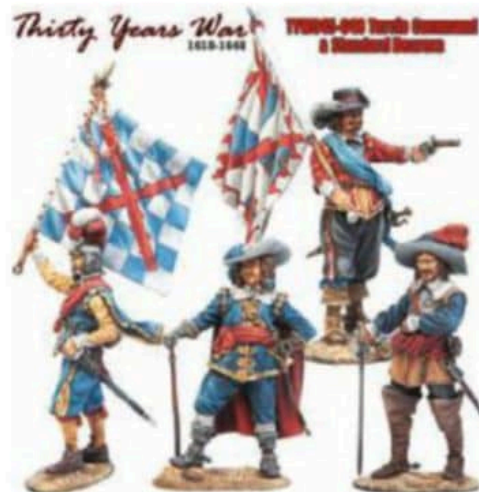
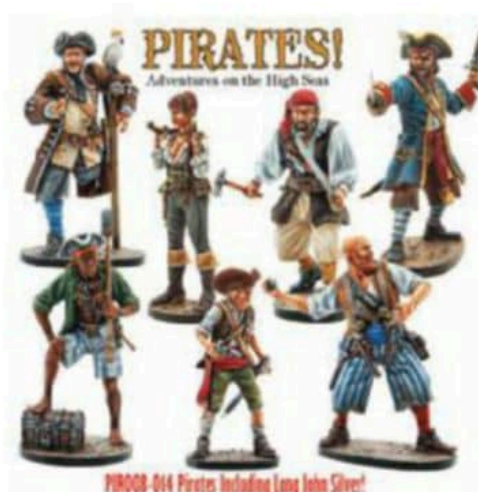
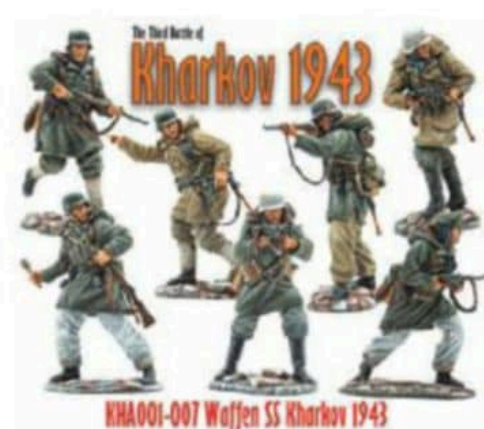
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# PRIZE EXERCISE

## Win a World War II German Tank Hunter

By Stuart A. Hessney



Our readers have a chance to win this Hetzer tank destroyer thanks to Hobby Bunker.

This time our readers have an exclusive chance to win a 1/30-scale model of a World War II German Jagdpanzer 38t thanks to the generosity of Matthew Murphy, president of US-based Hobby Bunker.

This type of effective light tank destroyer was also known as the 'Hetzer.' Made by Thomas Gunn Miniatures, this weathered 'Winter Variant' (ref. ACC PACK O80D) recreates how the armoured vehicle's summer camouflage would have been given an overcoat of whitewash. This Hetzer is numbered 412 on the side and it has a low silhouette, sloped armour and a commander atop wearing a white parka.

Located in the Boston area, Hobby Bunker first opened its doors in 1998. Matt has been around toy soldiers, model kits and gaming almost his entire life. He shares his customers' passion for toy soldiers and history, and Matt and his staff are always happy to help anyone from a beginner to a seasoned enthusiast. In addition, he promotes toy soldier

events including the Chicagoland and West Coaster shows. Matt also serves as the US subscriptions agent for UK-based Guideline Publications, the parent company of *TSC&HF*.

This limited edition model originally retailed for £210/\$245 US when it was rolled out in 2022, but one very lucky reader can win this fantastic prize by simply sending in the correct answer to the following question:

### How to Win!

All entries must be submitted with your complete contact details, including a daytime telephone number. Entries should be emailed to *TSC&HF* Editor Stuart A. Hessney at [stuart@guidelinepublicationsusa.com](mailto:stuart@guidelinepublicationsusa.com). All entries must be received by 30 November 2024. **Good luck!**

What ranks as the longest battle of World War II?

- A. Battle of Okinawa**
- B. Battle of Stalingrad**
- C. Battle of the Atlantic**
- D. Battle of Kursk**

#### CONTACT

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### Previous Winner Announced

Congratulations to the very lucky winner of the issue 117 prize competition featuring a 1/30-scale World War II armoured vehicle thanks to the generosity of Matthew Pavone and company at First Legion Ltd. This prize commemorates the 80th anniversary of the Allied D-Day amphibious invasion of France on Tuesday, 6 June, 1944, and the ensuing Normandy campaign against German forces.

The prize item is titled 'US M10 Wolverine Tank Destroyer with Removable Stowage' (ref. NOR099). It faithfully recreates how the M10 mounted a 3in main gun and a .50 calibre Browning M2HB machine gun in a rotating, open-top turret on a modified M4 Sherman tank chassis with thin but sloped armour. The model has metal, resin and plastic elements. Lots of different gear is strapped to the turret and stowed at both the front and back of the hull.

This realistic model retails for \$450 US, but American reader Alex Perez, won it by correctly answering that Telly Savalas was the actor who portrayed the US Army soldier Big Joe in the World War II comedy drama heist film *Kelly's Heroes* (1970).

Congratulations to the very fortunate winner and thanks to all the other readers from around the world who submitted entries. Please keep on trying because you've got to be in it to win it!

### Corrections

The editor erred last time in issue 118 regarding an Aztec competition prize. Julie Abraham picked up the reins at Treefrog Treasures in 2018, not 2019, and her husband Aron's last name is spelled Robison.



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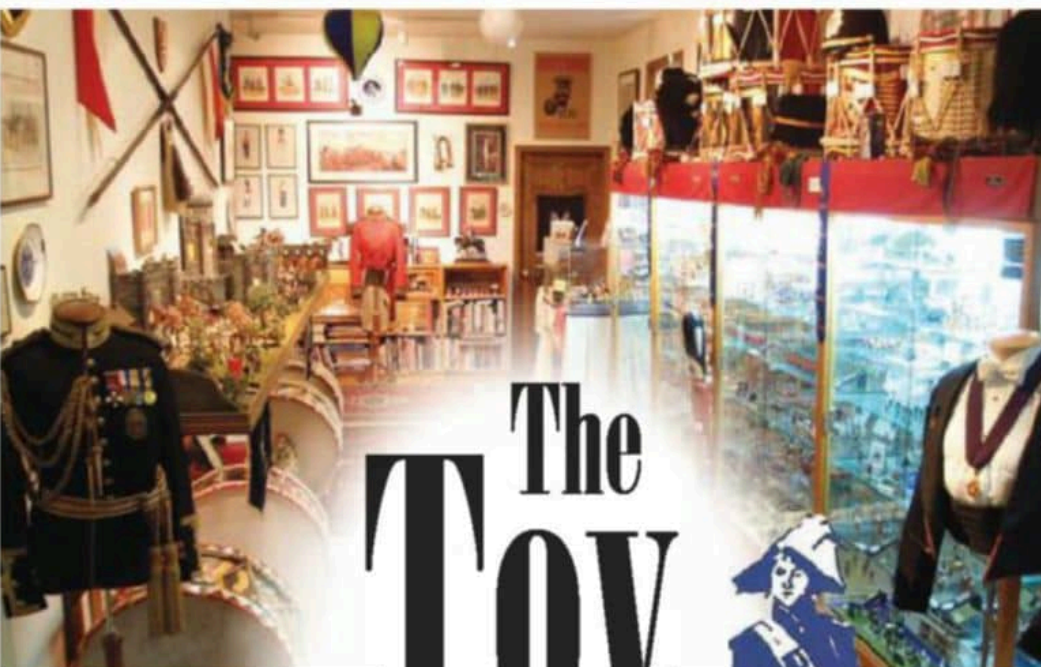
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# Gettysburg Symposium Presented by W. Britain

**Ken Osen** covers how the annual event featured a diorama workshop, presentations on history and more.

Text: Kenneth A. Osen

Photos: Courtesy of W. Britain

A diorama workshop, seminars, a dinner event, sneak peeks at future releases and rides in a halftrack were among the highlights of the Eighth Annual W. Britain Model Figures Symposium Friday to Sunday, 2-4 August, at the World War II American Experience Museum and Education Center in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, USA.

## Expert Presentations

Saturday featured four well qualified guest speakers who concluded their presentations with question-and-answer periods.

They included Mark Hacala, retired US Navy master chief hospital corpsman (Fleet Marine Force) and former historian at the non-profit Navy Memorial Foundation in Washington,



Retired USMC Gunnery Sergeant Tom Williams set up a fascinating display.



The museum's motor pool was an atmospheric backdrop for Friday's diorama workshop. Ken Osen (wearing a baseball cap) leans in to share tips with participants.



Henry Sledge and his son Jack, Ken Osen and W. Britain Project Coordinator Chris Harrod enjoyed a special tour of vehicles in the motor pool. That's Chris standing on the hull of a M4A3E8 Sherman tank as Henry climbs up.

## Diorama Workshop

As usual, the symposium was kicked off on Friday by a diorama building workshop for fourteen participants. The all-day class was held in the museum's motor pool where dozens of restored World War II vehicles served as an atmospheric and inspirational backdrop.

All the materials and lunch were covered by a fee. My wife Ericka was a great help and everyone had a good time. We were impressed to hear that three of the participants built additional sections when they got back home!



Museum Director Adam Buck stands in front of a halftrack discussing its history before symposium participants got to ride in it on Sunday.



D.C. He covered the history of enlisted personnel clothing from the Navy's formation to the present day.

Tyler Putman, manager of gallery interpretation at the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia, discussed the clothing and conditions of the common soldier during the war with a great interaction with the audience.

Codie Eash, director of education and museum operations at the Seminary Ridge Museum in Gettysburg, gave a talk about the politics and dedications of the early monuments placed on the American Civil War battlefield.

A departure from the usual lineup was an interaction between Henry Sledge, one of the sons of the late Eugene Sledge, author of the 1981 memoir *With the Old Breed: At Peleliu and Okinawa*; along with *Band of Brothers* actor Mathew Leitch, who portrayed Floyd Talbert in the 2001 HBO miniseries; and me.



**Saturday's symposium featuring Henry Sledge and actor Matthew Leitch moderated by Ken Osen shown seated from the left.**



**Saturday evening's dinner event included a silent auction of pre-production samples with signed certificates.**

This open discussion shed light on the experiences and social impact many of us shared growing up around World War II veterans, and especially the memories of the Sledge family. As a tribute, W. Britain has produced a personality figure titled 'US Marine Eugene Sledge 1944-45' (ref. 13095) as spotlighted in *TSC&HF* issue 118.

In addition, a special display of uniforms and equipment that Eugene Sledge would have been familiar with was set up by retired Gunnery Sergeant Tom Williams of the non-profit USMC Historical Company dedicated to preserving history, outreach and providing educational programming.

## Dinner and Rides

The event was wrapped up with a Saturday evening dinner at the museum and a sneak peek at upcoming W. Britain releases. The festivities included a silent auction of pre-production samples, one-of-a-kind displays and giveaways so no one went home empty-handed.

On Sunday, a good number of attendees took advantage of the opportunity to ride in a fully restored World War II US Army M3A1 halftrack across terrain and at full speed down a country road.

Everyone stated how much they enjoyed the event asking how soon we would host another one at the location. Soon we hope!



**Henry Sledge and his son Jack check out an Amphibious Vehicle, Tracked (LVT). Henry recalled how his father talked about riding in one en route to landing on Okinawa.**

## ABOUT THE WRITER

**Kenneth A. Osen** opened Hudson & Allen Studio as a researcher and designer of museum models and model making accessories in 1991. Within a short time, various miniatures companies were contracting with him to design and make patterns for figures and scenic accessories. This trend continued transforming the business and as a result Ken eventually became the president and creative director of W. Britain Model Figures. Ken, his wife Ericka and the rest of the team at W. Britain share the same passion for historical accuracy and it shows in every aspect of their work.



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## COMING NEXT TIME IN ISSUE 120 OF **TOY SOLDIER COLLECTOR & HISTORICAL FIGURES**



### **TOY TANK COMPANIES**

Retired US Army Brigadier General Raymond E. Bell Jr. details how he has built and collected models from various sources to create tank formations to reinforce toy armies.



### **FORT HENRY GUARD**

Canadian collectors Brendan Hogan and Scott Paget share their great enthusiasm for collecting iconic toy soldiers modelled after reenactors at historic Fort Henry in Kingston, Ontario.



TRW206

## KING &amp; COUNTRY'S

Once Upon A Time  
In The West...

TRW208

This was a remake of a Japanese film *'The Seven Samurai'*. Among the ensemble cast were **Yul Brynner**, **Steve McQueen**, **Charles Bronson** and **James Coburn**. All play gunfighters hired to protect a small Mexican village from a gang of marauding 'Banditos' led by **Eli Wallach**.

After the great success of this movie it was praised as one of the greatest films of the whole 'Western' genre. It's also one of K&C's own favourites and soon to be released as a tribute to all those who made and starred in it!

The history of movie 'Westerns' began with the end of the real 'Old West' itself. Westerns thrived in the silent film era and also during the 'Golden Age of Hollywood' in the 1930s and '40s.

Since that time 'Western' movies have ebbed and flowed in popularity but always delivered some great entertainment and exceptional films such as *'Stagecoach'* (1939) *'Winchester 73'* (1950)... *'The Searchers'* (1956) ... *'A Fistful of Dollars'* (1964) and *'The Wild Bunch'* (1969) are just a few of the finest.

Among the figures shown here one particular 'Western' movie has provided major inspiration *'The Magnificent Seven'* released in 1960.

## THE TREEFROG CONNECTION

For more details about these upcoming figures and K&C's many other series simply contact us at **Treefrog Treasures**.

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TRW207

CD041

TRW209

\* 3 of the 7 Gunfighters from  
K&C's upcoming *'Magnificent Seven'* Boxed Set.  
Available this November.



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**KING & COUNTRY HEADQUARTERS**

Suite 2301, 23rd Floor, No.3 Lockhart Road,

Wanchai, Hong Kong

Tel: (852) 2861 3450

E-mail: [sales@kingandcountry.com](mailto:sales@kingandcountry.com)

**KING & COUNTRY SHOP**

Shop 245, Pacific Place, 88 Queensway,

Hong Kong

Tel: (852) 2525 8603

Website: [www.kingandcountry.com](http://www.kingandcountry.com)

**KING & COUNTRY TEXAS**

5945 Broadway San Antonio, TX 78209

Tel: (210) 226-7000

[www.kingandcountrytexas.com](http://www.kingandcountrytexas.com)

[sales@kingandcountrytexas.com](mailto:sales@kingandcountrytexas.com)